Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

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Stayaway Westway bosses accused of insult

BY GEOFF BAKER
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PORTOBELLO is in uproar after Westway Trust chiefs pulled out of a public meeting to discuss their controversial development plans for the area – because they said they had fears for their safety.

Furious locals are demanding an apology for what they say is an "insane" safety claim, protesting "we are not beasts".

The relationship between the Trust and campaigners fighting development plans for the Westway has now sunk to an all-time low. A vote of no confidence in the Trust was passed unanimously at last week's public meeting and campaigners are to meet this week to discuss whether to call for Trust boss Angela McConville to resign.

Westway23 campaigners – a grass roots association of residents, traders and artists who are fighting the Trust's plans for the total redevelopment of the area under the section of the Westway which crosses Portobello Road – have called on Ms McConville to issue the apology for the "insult" of implying that she and her team would be at risk if they had attended last Wednesday's meeting

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■ **LIGHTING UP TIME: Christmas arrived with a flourish in Kensington on Saturday when crowd of several hundreds gathered to celebrate the switching on of the festive lights in Portobello Square. The Treblemakers, pictured here, led the way with with a rousing set of seasonal carols.**
Picture: Jack Dixon

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Call to cut deadly air pollution Page 5

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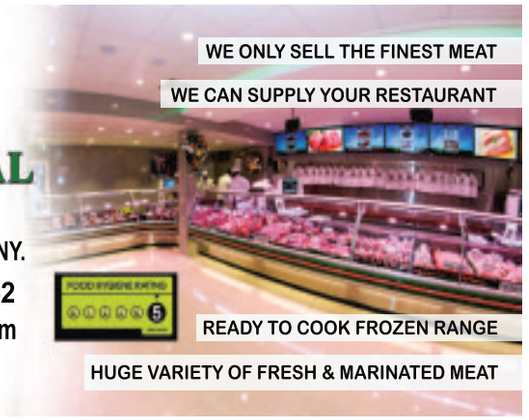

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

MAYOR'S MISSION HELPS ISRAELI BUSINESSES TO FORGE CAPITAL LINKS

London natural home for tech firms

LONDON is the leading European destination for Israeli technology companies looking to expand overseas, according to the mayor Boris Johnson, who is urging more Israeli firms to locate in the capital.

Israel boasts one of the world's leading tech sectors and, according to research compiled by London & Partners, the mayor's promotional company and IVC Research Center, London has become the number one city in Europe for Israeli tech businesses looking to list on the stock market, with companies drawn by the city's easy access to capital and its strong entrepreneurial culture.

Technology companies make up over three quarters (76%) of all Israeli companies listed on the London Stock Exchange and over the last five years they have raised over £240 million through those listings. There are currently 16 Israeli tech firms listed across London Stock Exchange's markets with a combined market value of £3.7 billion.

During a three-day trade mission to Israel last week Mr Johnson said: "London is the natural tech partner for Israeli firms looking to expand. With access to a world class talent pool and a booming digital economy it is no surprise that Israeli tech companies are making London their home and choosing the London Stock Exchange as their international market for expansion. I'm here to encourage even more of Israel's top tech talent to head to our shores."

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

The mayor attended several events in Tel Aviv with the aim of increasing trade links with London, including visits to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and Google Campus. He joined Nikhil Rathi, the chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, to officially open the day's trading at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on Monday morning, November 9, alongside a delegation of UK tech businesses.

Mr Rathi said: "London Stock Exchange is committed to ensuring ambitious, fast growing businesses from around the world have access to equity capital. Israel is world-renowned for its impressive record in nurturing technology start-ups and we believe London is the natural destination for these companies when they look to raise finance to grow on the international stage.

"In 2014 we saw more firms from Israel list on our markets than any other country outside the UK and with a strong pipeline we are confident that this trend will continue."

Later in the day the mayor visited Tel Aviv's Google Campus, where some of London's most exciting new technology businesses were exhibiting their tech savvy in a bid to build links with their Israeli counterparts. There are huge opportunities for collaboration between London and Israel's booming technology sectors, and the mayor used the event to champion London as Europe's leading destination for new technology firms.

Israeli tech businesses are already using London as a base to expand into international markets. The capital currently houses 141 Israeli tech firms, representing over half of the 239 Israeli companies with an office in the UK.

James Layfield, chief executive of UK workspace provider, Central Working, will announce the organisation's plans to bring 20 leading Israeli start-ups to London. The start-ups chosen for the programme will not only benefit from work space at one of Central Working's four locations in London, but more importantly will have access to the mentoring and support of their community to help them accelerate their growth.

The mayor appointed Mr Layfield a technology ambassador for London. He will join other ambassadors such as Russ Shaw, founder of Tech London Advocates and Eileen Burbidge, chairman of Tech City UK and the UK Government's Fintech envoy, to promote the capital's tech sector on an international stage.

Mr Layfield added: "I've been a proud advocate for London's thriving tech scene for many years and in my opinion London will be the global city of choice for tech innovation within the next five years. Our digital entrepreneurs are already competing fiercely with those from New York and Silicon Valley and I'm delighted that as a tech ambassador for London I can help spread the message about why London is the technology capital of the world. Strong community lies at the heart of Israeli culture and Central Working's strength is in our nurturing community, so I'm thrilled to welcome these fantastic Israeli tech start-ups into the network and have the opportunity to help them expand and thrive in a new market."

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Grassroots loses confidence in Trust

FROM PAGE 1

with residents and traders at The Tabernacle community centre in Powis Square.

The meeting – which was attended by 300 people – was called so that locals could hear from the Trust about the Portobello Village development and plans for changes to the 23-acre site, from where the popular West London Stables are being evicted.

The Trust is a registered charity, formed in 1971 to manage and regenerate the land on behalf of the local community. The Trust plans to develop 50,000 sq ft of land for its Portobello Village scheme, building new shops, offices, homes and sports venues.

However, Westway23 have previously claimed that the plans amount to "gentrification and social cleansing" and last Wednesday's meeting was called to discuss locals' concerns. Although the Trust's chiefs agreed to the meeting, which was then widely advertised, they then pulled out because of fears that it could be disruptive.

Ms McConville wrote to Westway23 leaders Toby Laurent Belson and Niles Hailstones, saying she, the Trust's chairman Alan Brown and other executives would not attend because of safety fears.

She wrote: "Having spoken at length with our new Chairman, and my fellow Directors here at the Trust, we have decided that we do not feel comfortable proceeding with the meeting. We saw this meeting as a valuable opportunity to advance positive dialogue and co-operation with Westway23. However, we fear the environment will not be conducive to achieving this."

She added: "I'm sure you understand that Alan and I have a duty to safeguard the well-being of our staff team."

But Ms McConville's concern for her team has infuriated the Westway23 campaigners.

Mr Hailstones responded to Ms McConville: "The core insult. Attending a group meeting in North Kensington, in your opinion, is an undertaking of such significant risk that you are duty bound to protect your staff from such exposure. There is no history of any trouble within public meetings, generally or those held by Westway23. This is the latest representation of the prejudiced and contemptuous beliefs held by the Trust of North Kensington and its people.

"We are not under-educated beasts, prone to violence and without the capacity or desire to ensure a positive, yet challenging debate. You owe us all an immediate apology for this disrespectful and insane assertion."

However, a week before the meeting Ms McConville gave notice widely that the Trust team would not be attending the meeting, and explained why. In last week's editions of this newspaper she spelled out her reasons.

She wrote: "As with all the invitations for conversations with groups in the community, we were pleased to confirm our attendance and engage in open dialogue with a passionate and committed group that represents a diverse spread of views. The meeting was on the understanding that it would be with members of the group about building trust, exploring ideas and providing a better understanding of how the Trust operates – the start of a relationship that we could commit to over the long term.

"Given the spread of creativity and energy displayed within the group, we were genuinely interested in what opportunities the conversation might bring about.

"However, last week we took the decision not to attend the meeting. The decision was taken with a heavy heart.

"What started as a proposed discreet group has become a rallying call for an open meeting, and we have been advised that the audience is likely to be over 200 people with no clear objectives of what we can achieve.

"It is almost impossible to hold 200 conversations at once. Plus, because of the way it's been publicised we cannot guarantee that everyone will be from the local area and some may not have good intentions. Postings on Facebook and social media promoting the meeting to encourage attendance talk about joining a 'resistance' and 'fight-back' against

■ **UNDER FIRE: Westway Trust chief executive Angela McConville.**

'lives lost' and makes a deeply offensive suggestion that links the Trust with 'ethnic cleansing'. Such inflammatory language gives me little assurance that all those attending will have good intentions.

"Without any assurance that those attending want constructive dialogue, it makes it very difficult for me to believe either party will get anything meaningful from the meeting.

"Having spoken at length on Friday with our new chairman, and my fellow directors here at Westway Trust, we decided that we do not feel comfortable proceeding with the meeting, as currently proposed. We saw this meeting as a valuable opportunity to advance positive dialogue and co-operation with Westway23. However, we fear the environment will not be conducive to achieving this."

Following the meeting, Westway23 leader Toby Laurent Belson spoke of his frustration and disappointment that the Trust's executives did not attend, leaving the community offended and with unanswered questions over the planned development of the Westway area.

"The Trust has a duty to safeguard the area and the community wants to know what is happening," said Mr Laurent Belson. "The meeting was an opportunity to break down barriers but what does it say to the community that the executives did not turn up? We were not going to eat them alive. We are reasonable, well-educated and intelligent people, but for some reason they don't trust us."

On a unanimous vote, the meeting passed a motion of no confidence in the directors of the Westway Trust and, at a meeting of Westway23 to be held this week, moves to call for Ms McConville's resignation will be discussed.

"A call for her resignation will be on the table for discussion at our meeting," said Mr Laurent Belson. He added it is now expected that dozens of residents and traders from the Portobello, Ladbroke Grove and Notting Hill areas will attend the Westway Trust's AGM, which is to be held at 7pm at St Helen's Church, St Helen's Gardens, W10 on Monday, November 23.

The public meeting at The Tabernacle was attended by Kensington and Chelsea borough councillor Pat Mason, who is on the board of the Westway Trust.

Following the meeting Councillor Mason issued the following statement: "I advised the Trust chair and chief executive to attend the Westway23 Tabernacle public meeting, saying they should not operate in a vacuum without the input of local people and without giving people the right to ask questions, scrutinise their actions, and to suggest what strategies the trust should follow for the future.

"Unfortunately, they decided not to attend because they are locked into the belief that local people should be commenting on and suggesting improvements to the Trust's proposals and strategies, rather than accepting that local people do not support what they are doing and have a completely different vision for their area.

"So any kind of strongly-voiced opposition to what is being proposed is experienced as unpalatable by trust directors who say they shouldn't have to put up with abuse when they are at work.

"This disconnect with the community is a historical problem born from the hijacking of the Trust by Kensington and Chelsea council from its inception and used as a vehicle to advance council regeneration policies and to prevent real community representatives and groups, who were always branded as troublemakers, from managing their own assets and making decisions beneficial to their communities.

"For several decades, the Trust has been run as if it were a castle bordered by a moat and peopled by the council's grandees who have ingrained their philosophy of neo liberal top down decision-making on the organisation, which is a hard mould to break.

"The trust now has less community representatives and elected councillors, and more professional appointees on its board than it had a year ago. It was set up to go down the corporate route and that process will continue unless the local community backs up its wish for an alternative vision with real actions."

The Trust later said in a statement: "We took the difficult decision to withdraw our attendance from the meeting organised by Westway23 as we believed attending would not lead to constructive outcomes. It is unfair to expect someone to attend a meeting not knowing who is presenting alongside you, what the agenda is, who the audience is, who is facilitating or how it will be managed.

"Having a community meeting is very positive and we support the principle, if you know the details and what to expect. We were informed about some of the details of the meeting from the Press ahead of being told by the organisers. There was always an air of mystery to the meeting, which did not encourage staff to feel confident about attending.

"Westway Trust regularly liaises with more than 70 local groups and working with a small group of leaders, who have proposals to discuss, has proven to be the most productive way to make progress. We remain keen to have a meeting with a group representing Westway23 at their earliest convenience.

"We are committed to working collaboratively and positively with all local groups, including Westway23, and want to encourage those that attended the meeting on Wednesday to bring forward their ideas for improving the estate so that we can find a mutually beneficial approach."

■ **CHEERS! Glasses are being raised at The Colton Arms in West Kensington to toast popular publican Dorothy Nunn, who is celebrating 50 years at the inn. The Enterprise inn in Greyhound Road has been her home for the last five decades.**

"Considering I've had three pubs in the past, I can't believe it's been 50 years since I took over The Colton Arms," she said. To mark the milestone, Dorothy and son Jonathan, who runs the pub with her, hosted a party to celebrate with customers. A buffet and free drinks were accompanied by music from members of a Welsh choir.

"I love my pub and home – it's small but cosy, and is special to many. Customers and staff often come back years later to see us and reminisce," she said.

The traditional local is known for its friendly atmosphere and great range of well-kept ales.

Enterprise's regional manager Joy Jones, with Enterprise chief executive Simon Townsend, presented Dorothy with a specially commissioned painting of the pub.

"I'm so proud of Dorothy and Jonathan for how well they run the very charming Colton Arms. The customer service is top notch, it's warm, welcoming, and everything is beautifully kept," said Joy. "To reach 50 years as a publican is incredible, and for that reason we celebrated their achievement in style."

Simon added: "Dorothy has lived through many changes in our industry during her time at The Colton Arms. She has dedicated a huge part of her life to the pub, becoming one of Enterprise's longest serving publicans in the process. We congratulate her for reaching this amazing milestone."

Our picture shows Dorothy and son Jonathan with Joy from Enterprise Inns.

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NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Good neighbours are urged to help elderly beat cold

BY GEOFF BAKER
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FOLLOWING forecasts that the UK is facing the coldest winter in 50 years, an urgent appeal has been launched in Kensington and Chelsea for neighbours to help keep older residents warm and alive – after dozens of elderly people in the borough died in the last cold spell.

The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation is calling for help from wealthier neighbours amid concerns that pensioners on a tiny budget are choosing between heating and eating and cannot keep themselves warm enough to live.

"It may surprise people to know that during the winter of 2012-13, 50 people in the royal borough died of cold-related illnesses," said a spokesman for the foundation.

"In addition, 26 per cent of residents aged over 75 turn off their heating to save money and one in five lives without any central heating.

■ AT RISK: The elderly on low incomes at winter time.

"Many local older residents of Kensington and Chelsea have to choose between heating and eating, as rising costs and low pensions squeeze their ability to do both."

This is the fifth year that the foundation has run its Winter Warmth campaign. Last year, big-hearted local people donated almost £40,000, which was passed on to help more than 140 elderly residents in desperate need.

The campaign asks local people who receive the Government's Winter Fuel Payment of £100 to £300 to donate some or part of it to a neighbour in need if they are able to.

But also, any resident – pensioner or not – can donate to the foundation's appeal.

The organisation works alongside the council's Healthier Homes initiative and partners with local charities and community groups to identify the most vulnerable, isolated older people who are in need and it redistributes 100 per cent of all donations received.

"Older residents of the borough are very grateful for any help from the Winter Warmth campaign, it takes away a great deal of their stress and worry," said the spokesman.

If you are able to help with this campaign and would like to give to a neighbour, please call 020 7229 5499, or email *team@thekandcfoundation.com*

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NEWS FROM NICK...

Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, recalls the extraordinary war service of a borough-born hero

Courage and daring we must never forget

AT the Royal Borough's Act of Remembrance I wore my poppy with pride. And, along with much of the rest of the nation, stood stock still for two minutes to reflect on the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

On Thursday, November 19, I will attend another act of remembrance, more local this time but significant nonetheless; for the laying of a memorial paving stone at the Sloane Square war memorial in memory of the late Richard Bell Davies.

Richard was awarded a Victoria Cross for what was the world's first ever combat search and rescue by aircraft.

"Lest we forget" is the famous Kipling refrain, and in that spirit I thought I would use this week's column to recount a little of Richard's life.

Born in Topstone Road (now Nevern Place), Kensington, on May 19, 1886, Richard was one of the first naval aviators, and he distinguished himself in both the First and Second World Wars before retiring with the rank of Vice Admiral.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1901 and in 1910 took private flying lessons. During the course of 1913 he was accepted into the Royal Naval Air Service.

In the early days of the First World War Richard carried out a number of raids on German submarine bases and received the Distinguished Service Order for services rendered in an aerial attack on Dunkirk, January 23, 1915.

On November 19, 1915, he was flying a Nieuport Type 10 Scout during an attack on Ferrijik, in Bulgaria, when his colleague, Flight Sub Lieutenant Gilbert Smylie, flying a Henry Farman, was shot down behind enemy lines.

With bombs exploding around him and Ottoman troops closing in, Richard put his aircraft down and managed to squeeze Smylie into his tiny single-seat aeroplane before returning safely to their own lines.

■ HERO: Aviator Richard Bell Davies. © IWM. Q 69475

He was awarded the Victoria Cross – only the second ever awarded to a naval airman – by His Majesty King George V.

His citation reads: "Squadron-Commander Davies descended at a safe distance from the burning machine, took up Sub-Lieutenant Smylie, in spite of the near approach of a party of the enemy, and returned to the aerodrome, a feat of airmanship that can seldom have been equalled for skill and gallantry."

Richard's ceremony is part of a nationwide campaign to honour Victoria Cross recipients from the First World War by laying commemorative paving stones in their birthplace on the centenary of their awards.

A total of 628 Victoria Crosses were awarded during the First World War; 482 to UK and Ireland-born recipients; 145 to servicemen who fought for Britain but were born overseas; Captain Noel Chavasse won two VCs in the First World War, and of the 85 London-born recipients, eight were born in Kensington and Chelsea. And, with the passing of Thursday's ceremony, we will have honoured two of those local heroes: George Dorrell and Richard Bell Davies.

Over the next few years we will do the same for every one of the others.

Please do join us in remembering each of them in turn: Humphrey Firman, Frank Wearne, Julian Gribble, Victor Crutchley, Roland Bourke and George Cartwright. Visit the website *www.rbkc.gov.uk/ww1victoriacrossawards*

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

■ **TOP DRAW: Westminster's Central Hall Westminster joined a worldwide initiative to mark the 70 year anniversary of the formation of the United Nations by projecting blue light across the building, 70 years after the inaugural meeting of the UN in the same venue. Iconic monuments, buildings and landmarks across the world projected blue light across their facades, the official colour of the United Nations, on UN Day, October 24. Central Hall Westminster was the only English landmark to join the global initiative.**

Market evacuated after bomb found

ONE of London's iconic markets was evacuated after an unexploded bomb was discovered.

Spitalfields in East London was cleared after the Second World War device was found at a nearby construction site at about 9.45am on Thursday, November 12.

A number of businesses were closed as a precautionary measure and a police cordon was thrown across the junction of Commercial Street and Brushfield Street while specialist officers attempted to remove the bomb, thought to have been dropped in a Luftwaffe raid on the city.

Around noon, traders were told that it was safe for them to return to their stalls. Kenny, a bag designer who has worked at the market for nine and a half years, said an orange digger at the construction site across the road had come into contact with the ordnance when businesses were still setting up shop.

Earlier this year, residents in Bethnal Green and Bermondsey in London were evacuated by the emergency services after similar wartime bombs were discovered.

Under 11s travel free

CHILDREN under 11 will be able to enjoy free travel on all National Rail services in London from January 2, the mayor Boris Johnson announced this week.

At the moment children are only allowed free travel when they are accompanied by a paying adult on Tube, Transport for London rail, Docklands Light Railway, and London Overground trips.

Mr Johnson said that hundreds of thousands of families would benefit from the measure.

Meanwhile, season ticket priceas will rise by nearly one percent in the new year, TfL said.

Urgent plea to fight pollution

BY GEOFF BAKER
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WORRIED London Assembly chiefs are calling for urgent Government cash to bring forward the clean-up of the capital's filthy air in a desperate bid to save the lives of 47,500 Londoners who will otherwise die.

London now has most of the dirtiest air in Britain – contributing to the death of almost 10,000 people every year – and in some spots it is 20 times the legal limit.

City chiefs say the current levels of traffic filth in the air are "an unacceptable threat to public health".

The capital has more than 600 miles of roads where exhaust fumes exceed the legal limit. London's huge area of killer air now makes up 43 per cent of the entire UK total.

Pollution from nitrogen dioxide and other killer gases is currently sending 9,500 people a year to an early grave and the London Assembly is calling for immediate action on the Air Quality Plan to save the lives of tens of thousands more.

Following warnings from doctors and health officials to joggers to stop running near busy roads and fears that especially-polluted Oxford Street is becoming a death zone, the London Assembly Environment Committee is now calling for the updated Air Quality Plan to ensure that the UK complies with legal levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) by 2020 instead of the proposed 2025 – 15 years later than authorities ordered.

In a response to the Government's consultation, the Environmental Committee said the current proposals "lack ambition and initiative".

The plan is being revised after the Supreme Court in April this year ordered the Government to take action to tackle the dangerously high levels of NO2 found in the UK.

Compliance with the limits is required as soon as possible and a revised plan must be proposed by the end of this year.

"The committee's response highlights that the proposals fail to question the real emissions of Euro 6 diesel vehicles, despite it now being common knowledge that many models certified as compliant emit several times the regulatory NOx (nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide) limit on UK roads, with some emitting up to 20 times the legal level," said an Assembly spokeswoman.

Darren Johnson, Chair of the Environment Committee, said compliance with EU air regulations needed to be brought forward by at least five years, saving up to 47,500 lives.

"The EU regulations setting out safe levels of nitrogen dioxide first came into force in 2010, so to still be in breach of them in 2025, some 15 years later, is an unacceptable threat to public health," said Mr Johnson.

"To put it simply, it's too long to wait when we know that 9,500 people a year are dying due to the dangerously high levels of pollution in London alone.

"The Supreme Court ordered the Government to demonstrate that all feasible, effective and proportionate measures have been considered and to ensure legal compliance as soon as possible.

"With this in mind, the committee believes that the current version of the Air Quality Plan requires considerable revision, at the very least to address the recent diesel revelations and to support the use of ultra-low emissions vehicles through incentives such as a national scrappage scheme. The Mayor of London and some other local authorities are taking action, but the Government needs to fund and support this, not just leave them to it."

LWN

■ HEART WARMING: Kensington radiates the traditional Christmas atmosphere on Saturday evening.

■ LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT: Kensington trumpeted the arrival of Christmas on Saturday, when schoolgirl Miki Keric joined theMayor of Kensington, Councillor Robert Freeman, above, to switch on the festive illuninations in Portobello Square. Inset above: a capello carol singers, The Treblemakers in full voice. Pictures: Jack Dixon/London Weekly News

Three, two, one... let there be light!

■ PLUNGED INTO BRIGHTNESS: Miki Keric, aged 10, was the VIP at Saturday's big switch-on.

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE countdown to Christmas officially began in Kensington as a crowd of hundreds gathered to celebrate the switching on of the festive lights in Portobello Square.

It was a moment to remember for one lucky schoolgirl, 10-year-old Miki Keric, who was joined by the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Robert Freeman, to turn on the lights on Saturday.

Miki, a pupil at St Barnabus and St Philip's Church of England School, was specially invited to kick off the festive period after her colourful Christmas card design came out on top in a recent competition.

A large crowd assembled in the square on Saturday afternoon to see Miki officially welcome in the season of goodwill. She was given a helping hand by Cllr Freeman and Mark Barr BEM, chairman of the Portobello and Golborne Market management committee.

The big switch-on marked the start of the busy Christmas period for market traders, who will hope to cash in on the festive cheer over the next few weeks.

"Some people say once the John Lewis advert appears that Christmas is finally here – but that is not true," said Cllr Freeman ahead of the switch-on. "It is only once these lights go on that Christmas has really started – it is a tremendous pleasure to be here."

Musical entertainment was provided by a capella singers The Treblemakers, who brought the sound of Christmas carols back to the square for another year.

And Mr Barr paid tribute to a real community effort from local supporters who got into the festive spirit to help make preparations for the switch-on.

"I would just like to thank our sponsors at Second Cup and all the people who gave us a hand erecting the tree this year," he said. "It's been a great success."

■ LIGHT RELIEF: Portobello Square is illuminated and the festive season is officially with us.

■ STAR TREATMENT: Portobello Square Christmas tree becomes an icon for the season of goodwill while The Treblemakers entertain. Pictures: Jack Dixon/London Weekly News

■ SAFETY PLEA: Dog owners in North Kensington's Athlone Gardens park asked councillors to make fencing secure.

Dance with legend

LEGENDARY dancer Michael Flatley has set up a programme to give young people the opportunity to dance on stage at the Playhouse Theatre in London's West End.

The talented cast of *Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games* are running weekly workshops from now through to December 15. Students between the ages of 11 and 18 will be taught steps and be given an insight into the world of theatre. Following the workshop, they will be invited to watch the evening performance of the show.

Flatley said: "Every child should be given the opportunity to dance and it is my honour to encourage young people to follow their dreams."

Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games opened at the Playhouse Theatre on 10 October and runs until January 3, following a highly successful six-month limited season at the Dominion Theatre, which finished on September 5.

Crossrail consultation

CHELSEA residents now have another chance to find out about plans for a Crossrail 2 station on the King's Road following Transport for London's decision to put on an additional drop-in event.

The extra session will be held on Saturday, November 28 from 11am to 3pm at Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 5EE.

TfL's proposals are currently out for consultation and residents have until Friday, January 8 to have a say. Other drop-in events in the area are: Thursday, November 19, noon to 8pm, Doubletree Hilton, Hayward Suite, 2 Bridge Place, SW1V 1QA; Saturday, November 28, 11am to 3pm, Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 5EE; Wednesday, December 9, noon to 8pm, York Gardens Library and Community Centre, Lavender Road, SW11 2UG; Thursday, December 10, noon to 8pm, York Gardens Library and Community Centre, Lavender Road, SW11 2UG.

Ruff justice as council agrees to make fence safe

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Royal Borough Council is to come to the aid of the puppies of North Kensington after owners complained that a park fence needed to be made safe so that dogs do not run into the road.

Puppies, older dogs and their owners came together to lobby the council over fencing around the temporary Athlone Gardens park, which is in the middle of the Wornington Green development site.

They expressed concerns that the height of the fencing from the ground is currently unsuitable for a park used by dogs, as they can easily slip under the fence and run into the road, where construction lorries drive past.

The council at first refused to add wire netting to fill the gap, stating that owners and carers should control the dogs. But puppy owners protested.

One said: "My Casper is concerned that his natural instincts to run free and explore are being curtailed by the inadequate fence. I have to be constantly on guard and calling him back, which makes for a fraught outing for both of us."

■ **SAFETY PLEA: Dog owners in North Kensington's Athlone Gardens park asked councillors to make the fencing more secure.**

There have been several instances of small dogs getting out beneath the fence and running into the road. Owners feared that one day there would be an accident.

"Sometimes larger dogs arriving at the park unleashed will scrabble excitedly under the fence and frighten small dogs," said an owner.

Owners said the gap under the fence was "totally unacceptable", and that it is impossible to train puppies if they cannot be safely contained in the park. At present the gap is large enough in places to allow children to slide beneath, which also poses all kinds of potential problems for parks police whose job it is to ensure safety at night when the park gates are locked.

Another owner said: "You would never put an inadequate fence around a toddlers' playground. They need to be safe and kept within their carers' view. It is precisely the same with puppies – they are not dangerous, just young and curious."

But last week, after the borough council was made aware of the protest, officers took the lead to make the park puppy-safe.

A council spokesman said: "We are instructing a contractor to install mesh around the bottom of the fencing which will resolve the problem."

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History date

SOME of the country's leading historians and authors are taking part in this month's seventh London History Festival, organised by Kensington and Chelsea council.

Taking place at Kensington Central Library until November 26, topics include: Rome's first imperial dynasty; the culture and characters at Bletchley Park; how the Plantagenets helped forge the nation and the influence of spies and intelligence during the Second World War. Festival-goers can listen to speakers including Max Hastings, Dan Jones, Tom Holland, Helen Castor, Jessie Childs, Sophie Ambler, Marc Morris, Thomas Ashbridge, David Boyle and Sinclair McKay.

Entry to each event costs £5 (£3 for concessions). Booking is advised. Tickets can be bought from any library in Kensington and Chelsea, by writing to Local Studies, Kensington Central Library, Hornton Street, W8 7RX, or by calling 020 7361 3010.

Market art

A SERIES of sketches capturing the people who live, work and shop in Portobello and Golborne Market makes up the latest art installation on the Portobello Wall.

The work by local artist and illustrator Fiona Hawthorne, entitled *One Five Zero*, was commissioned by Kensington and Chelsea council to celebrate the market's 150th anniversary.

Bridge is made safer for cyclists and pedestrians

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

IMPROVED cycle facilities, with an option for segregated lanes on Westminster Bridge, a new crossing for pedestrians and a new cycle and pedestrian-friendly junction at the southern end of the bridge are included in plans being consulted on by Transport for London.

The improvements would open up safer cycle links from Waterloo station and south London to the new East-West Cycle Superhighway, currently under construction.

It would give cyclists a high quality route from Waterloo to Parliament Square, the Embankment, Marble Arch, Paddington, Blackfriars and the City.

There would also be a link to the new Central London Grid cycle route along the South Bank. Almost a third of morning peak-hour traffic on the bridge is bikes, according to TfL's 2013 cycle census.

Leon Daniels, Managing Director of Surface Transport at TfL, said: "London is rapidly changing and that is why we are modernising our roads to keep pace with it. We can turn a potentially hazardous junction into a safer place for cyclists and pedestrians by redesigning this area. Our proposed safety improvements would benefit Londoners and commuters of London's busiest railway station, Waterloo, who would have better walking and cycling links to and from the station."

The proposed changes would create a new pedestrian crossing on the south-east arm of the Westminster Bridge South roundabout by the Park Plaza hotel, segregated cycle lanes, and separate traffic signals for cyclists at the junction, reducing conflict with motor vehicles, where most serious cyclist collisions occur.

A new trial 20mph limit for all traffic is also proposed on the bridge, on part of Westminster Bridge Road, Addington Street and York Road.

The existing bus and general traffic lanes on the bridge would remain.

Andrew Gilligan, the mayor's cycling commissioner, said: "This is one of the mayor's Better Junction schemes to vastly improve another of London's trickiest big junctions. After completion of this scheme, our intention is segregated lanes on Westminster Bridge Road to fill the short quarter-mile gap between it and the North-South Superhighway on St George's Road.

"You would then be able to cycle on fully-segregated or traffic-free routes from Paddington, Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner to Elephant and Castle."

Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Cabinet member for the Environment at Lambeth Council, said: "Anything that makes cycling and walking in London safer is to be welcomed. It's better for our health, better for our city and better for our streets, which for too long have been dominated by the car."

The work forms part of TfL's Road Modernisation Plan, a £4billion investment in the capital's vital road network.

■ **AIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW: Broadcaster Lisa Snowdon is to leave the Capital FM breakfast show at the end of this year. Snowdon, who has co-hosted with Dave Berry and Johnny Vaughan for more than seven years, will leave at the end of next month. 'I've had a fantastic time waking up London and I've been very lucky to have worked with some of the most talented people in the business,' Snowdon said. 'But after seven and a half years of getting up at 04.30, I hope people agree that I've earned a lie-in! Now it's time for my next big adventure.' Snowdon was hired in 2008, when she was presenting Britain's Next Top Model, to replace Denise van Outen. At the time, Capital's London breakfast show was second to Neil Fox's Magic, with an average weekly reach of 772,000 listeners between 6am and 9am. The Capital breakfast show now has an audience of around one million, second to Bauer's Kiss by just 3,000 listeners.**

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LWN

NEWS FROM KENSINGTON

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Creating healthier and happier communities

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, highlights a new partnership opportunity for the Trust to help realise its vision of creating fitter and healthier communities under the Westway.

THE sports and fitness centres are some of the most popular aspects of what we do at Westway Trust.

They attract more than half a million visits every year offering gyms, studios, football pitches, tennis courts, climbing walls and all manner of classes and exceptional training. We are committed to maintaining and improving the facilities, to reducing barriers to fitness and to improving the health of those in the community. We know that one in five people in the Borough are not physically active and we are committed to helping even more people participate in activities that motivate them.

In order to do this many of the facilities need improvement, but the sports enterprise has been operating at a significant annual financial loss. The financial demands of this and the aging profile of our sports estate, means we have to consider how we can meet the investment needed in our facilities.

Last year we conducted a review of the sports and fitness operation. The analysis showed we are operating in an increasingly competitive environment, and as a two site operation, do not have the economies of scale to be able to expand and grow our offer. Westway Sports & Fitness has the potential to reach many more people in our community and through new partnerships we can generate more income - without raising prices or impacting customers' experience - which we will then reinvest in more community projects.

If we take a different approach, we are able to realise an enhanced offer that benefits many more people. We are therefore exploring the option of partnering with a not-for-profit sports operator to help us manage the operational side of Westway Sports & Fitness more effectively.

Our proposal is that Westway Trust retains full ownership of the sports and fitness estate and facilities and will continue to have full strategic oversight and accountability for them. We will partner with a not-for-profit operator to simply manage the facilities day to day, on our behalf in order to improve the service for existing users and expand them to make them suitable for even more members of the community.

> **We know that one in five people in the borough are not physically active and we are committed to helping more people participate in activities that motivate them**

For many people, the obvious question arises, why do we need to consider a change? At its most basic level, the sports and fitness enterprise is operating at a yearly deficit. If we don't partner with a sports operator then we are effectively not able to reinvest hundreds of thousands into community projects every year. It is nearly 15 years since Sport England first provided the investment needed to build these facilities. As such they are increasingly in need of investment and refurbishment. If we do nothing, the centres will very quickly run into decline and become burdensome. We are not changing the infrastructure, ownership or what we want to achieve. Creating a healthy and prosperous community is at the heart of our plans. Most of the staff who work here won't change either. And, once the new partner is appointed, all staff at the centres will be transferred to the new employer on the same pay and conditions.

If you are a user of the centres there will be no impact on services, prices, conditions or programmes. The operator will sit behind our brand, so we will retain our name 'Westway Sports & Fitness.' The only change is that we will have an organisation with greater focus, expertise and buying power than us, able to bring economies of scale and run the operation more efficiently.

And, it should be stressed that there will be very strict conditions of partnership. The successful operator must be not-for-profit; have a robust, achievable business plan; align with our values; have the expertise, insight and innovation to encourage more people in the local community to take up sport or physical activity; be committed to improving the facilities; and provide better career opportunities for our employees.

This is a new project, and we are at the early stages. We have informed our employees and it has largely been well received. There is a long process to go through – we expect it will take just under a year – and there are rightly many checks our Board of Trustees has asked for to ensure we get the best fit for our charitable objectives.

Over the next few months we will be asking potential not-for-profit partners to set out their plans for running the services and once we have made a decision about who we wish to partner with, we expect they will be in place in the autumn of 2016.

This the best option to advance our mission to improve the health of the community, but we appreciate some of you may have some questions about it. We will ensure that you are updated regularly with the latest developments and welcome your feedback throughout the process – please speak to a member of staff, email it to sports.enquiries@westway.org or post it to us at Sports Enquiries, Westway Sports & Fitness Club, 3-5 Thorpe Close, W10 5XL.

As part of this project and our ambition to create ever more attractive and inviting active environment, we will be asking for your views about what more we might do to encourage you to get involved in sport and physical activity or do more, and how we can evolve our offer to better suit local peoples' needs. We will be asking for comments in the new year, and are particularly interested to hear from people who currently don't engage in sport or physical activity, so please do watch this space.

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Property market shake-up leaves London off colour

THE world-famous Monopoly game board has been given an 80th birthday update by a London estate agency to include today's average property prices.

The refreshed playing surface of the iconic London real estate board game shows how the areas' fortunes have fared according to average property prices in 2015 – with some surprising results.

The colour-coded London districts have been kept the same, but have been moved around on the board according to average house prices for each area, obtained through industry data.

Experts say the findings highlight how much the London property market has increased in value, but also show how areas have increased and decreased in price compared to where they were in the property market in 1935 when the game was first released.

Working with clients including sheikhs and billionaires, the Hanover West End esate agency team remodelled the Monopoly board to give it a 2015 makeover. Old Kent Road and Whitechapel Road remain the low-value areas on the board. Vine Street, which was originally half away along the board, has dropped to third least expensive with an average property price of £539,663.

Vine Street has replaced the Angel Islington, which has increased in value, and moved to the pink section where Whitehall originally sits, at a value of £816,320. Another surprising increase in value is Euston Road. At an average price of £1,041,250, it has moved six places up to where Marlborough Street is situated on the board.

According to the statistics, Park Lane, which is one of the most expensive areas in the real Monopoly game and sits next to Mayfair, has dropped drastically to replace Coventry Street, with an average property value of £1,873,333. Regent Street now accompanies Mayfair at the top, with an average price of £2,859,460.

Richard Douglas, director at Hanover West End, said: "We anticipated that there would be differences in the property market from 80 years ago. However, the extent to how much it has changed is surprising. We knew Mayfair would remain at the top of the board and Old Kent Road at the bottom, but the areas that have moved in between are eye-opening.

"Fleet Street, which has always been a prominent central location in London, has dropped down to the blue area of the board with an average value of £611,000. The way London has evolved and grown has had a significant impact on which areas have flourished. We are certain London will continue to change over the next 80 years."

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University research unit to help Met police capital

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE first research centre to focus on meeting the policing challenges faced by big cities is to be set up at University College London.

Plans for the new independent Institute for Global City Policing were announced last week by the Mayor of London's Office for Policing And Crime and the Metropolitan Police. The new centre will give London's police chiefs a firm base of proper academic research akin to other professions such as law and medicine.

The mayor's office said: "As London continues to grow, amidst a changing criminal landscape, and as public safety budgets are squeezed, it is imperative that the Met is able to call on the best possible research to help target resources as effectively and efficiently as possible.

"The new institute will build on the relationship between London's police force and academia and enable far more rigorous and independent investigation into the issues facing London from the precursors of knife crime, to the efficacy of stop and search.

"It is hoped the new analysis will help inform the best and most cost-effective decisions for example, by identifying the key drivers of crime or by demonstrating which tactics are most successful in a city like London, whilst maintaining the highest standards of public safety."

The institute will bring together some of the world's leading experts in policing and crime research and offer unprecedented access to the Met's crime and policing data. Its work programme will be agreed jointly by MOPAC, the Met, and university partners, in consultation with an international advisory group. It is expected to focus on complex challenges unique to large and rapidly growing global cities from police tactics to organised criminal networks, gangs, counter-terrorism, and cyber-crime.

Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, said: "Policing a growing and changing global city like London is a unique challenge, and this new Institute will help ensure we are equipped to meet it. With unprecedented access to London's policing data, this new partnership will allow the Met to call upon the expertise of the world's leading academics in keeping Londoners safe and crime off our streets."

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, said: "I'm delighted that the institute will be up and running very soon. The police need the same kind of academic knowledge base as engineering, medicine or law. It is a great privilege to keep over 60 million people safe. We always need help in achieving that aim."

Professor David Price, UCL Vice-Provost (Research), said: "I am delighted that we are able to work in partnership with the Met Police and MOPAC on this new institute. UCL is London's global university, so addressing the challenges facing global cities is one of our central goals. I am confident our relationships with policing will prove as positive for both parties as the interactions between academia and medicine have done, with world-leading research and the provision of high-quality public services supporting and informing each other."

The new institute is due to open early next year.

BACK ZAC2016

DELIVERING FOR LONDONERS

Dear Londoner,

My name is Zac Goldsmith. I grew up in London, near Richmond Park, and I represent my community in Parliament with enormous pride.

Over the last five years I've fought every step of the way to hold government to account, and to deliver for my community – whether securing funding for Kew Gardens, keeping the use of Richmond Park free, stopping the sell-off of school playing fields or working with my colleagues on Richmond Council to back our high streets.

Over the past seven years, Boris has put London back on the map. We have seen record investment, jobs created, crime down, and tube delays down. We have a once in a lifetime chance to lock in and build on this progress so it is not wasted.

But London's successes have not yet been felt by all Londoners and there are serious challenges ahead.

There are too many young adults still living in their childhood bedrooms trapped by London's escalating house prices. Families spending more time commuting than they do with each other. Too many lives brought short by pollution in our air.

The stakes at the mayoral election could not be higher. I am asking for your vote because London needs a Mayor with plans that can be delivered and who can work with the Government to fund them; for someone who will put Londoners ahead of party or union interest, and to build a better city that works for all Londoners.

ZAC GOLDSMITH

Conservative candidate for Mayor of London

w: backzac2016.com f facebook.com/zac.goldsmith

Promoted by Ian Sanderson on behalf of the Conservative Party, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ.

LWN

READERS' LETTERS

Crossrail 2 plan undermined by 'short termism'

YOUR article on the Crossrail 2 station proposals in the November 5 edition referred to the meeting which was held on November 3 at Chelsea Town Hall.

It proved to be a very crowded meeting, which was obviously well organised in its attendance of the 'anti' brigade but what a farce it proved to be!

The supposedly impartial BBC man controlling the meeting was continually being directed as to where he should chose the next person to speak by a gentleman prominently seated directly in front of him in the first row and another from the back of the hall who was continually running down to the front to point out other people at the back of the hall to be selected.

It soon became clear that few people with a contrary view were having their voice heard and, by far, the majority of those chosen to speak their minds were 'anti'.

Were most of the objectors simply people with a vested interest in their property today and their concern about how their building could possibly be affected?

From Tim Coleridge's undertakings as the councillor involved, most results of the construction would take place deep underground, with all the tunnel waste being taken away from Chelsea via the newly-built tunnels.

Disturbance at ground level would appear to be minimal for such a major project. In fact, it was pointed out that the 'face' of the area as we know it would be very little altered at the end of the construction period.

Nobody from the audience seemed to take seriously the fact that this was a project for the next 100 to 150 years and the advantages to be obtained in time travelling to all parts of London via this new station would be invaluable.

When South Kensington and Sloane Square stations were established in the 1860-70s, there were no doubt similar objections about the carving up of houses in Thurloe Square, Bourne Street etc but where would we be today without the District Line running through the borough?

Let's, just for once, forget about short termism and think of the generations recently born and about to be born so that they can benefit from the decisions taken today – perhaps even including a reduction in the number of buses currently going along the King's Road and causing such bad daily jams in the area.

Mr D Lloyd
Chelsea

■ AS Crossrail prepares to open in 2018, now is the opportunity for readers of this newspaper to have their say on a new railway project that could affect people's lives in this part of London for a generation.

The proposed new Crossrail 2 would run underground through London between Wimbledon and New Southgate/Tottenham Hale and link into the existing national rail network above ground for destinations in Surrey and Hertfordshire.

Crossrail 2 could bring jobs and vastly increased services to large parts of our city, helping us to move around for decades to come – but there are also questions about where construction sites will be positioned, where station entrances should go, what the service levels should be and how the project will impact on the homes of people who are currently living along the route.

If we get this right, Crossrail 2 could transform life in London for so many of us, so I urge everyone to take part in this next phase of the consultation and provide your feedback to the planners.

Details of consultation meetings can be found at the website *crossrail2.co.uk*

Syed Kamall
MEP for London

Make walkers safers on our streets in winter

SHOCKING new analysis has discovered that pedestrian casualties on British roads peak in November each year.

The research compared four years of records and found an increase of 42 per cent in serious pedestrian casualties in November compared to August.

Any death on the road is one too many. Here at Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, we are very disturbed at this dramatic rise.

The winter months bring challenges for road users, including darker evenings and bad weather.

We need to ensure we are working to keep people safe on our streets. Crossings, 20mph and pedestrian zones are all ways of increasing safety and need to be taken seriously to ensure that the number of pedestrian casualties does not continue to rise. We must prioritise the safety of walkers to make sure everybody feels that they can get out and enjoy their streets and experience the health, social and environmental benefits that walking brings. The government must invest in walking to help save precious lives.

Dr Rachel Lee
Policy and Research Co-ordinator, Living Streets, Universal House, Wentworth Street, London

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London Weekly News pick up points

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Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road	SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

■ **TOP TEACHER: Nancie Atwell, officially the world's greatest teacher, is pictured with Donal Brennan, headmaster of Chelsea's Hampshire School, where she gave an inspirational speech to youngsters at the independent co-education preparatory day school for girls and boys aged three to 13 years.**

Teacher makes world of difference

NANCIE Atwell, officially the best teacher in the world, last week addressed parents and teachers at Chelsea's Hampshire School.

She won the Varkey Foundation's $1million Global Teacher Prize, which is given to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession. Nancie was presented with the prize, considered to be the Nobel Prize of teaching, by former president Bill Clinton. She chose to donate all the prize money to the school she founded, the Center for Teaching and Learning in Maine, USA.

She told pupils at the West London school: "If I had influence beyond my dreams, I'd direct the educational decision-makers of the world to pay attention to literacy scholarship, focus on comprehension, and bring children's literature from the periphery of reading instruction to the foreground: to put wonderful stories front and centre."

At a separate appearance in London Ms Atwell warned that a "workshop" approach to lessons – where information is delivered to a group with little attention given to individual learners – means pupils are missing out on a genuine education.

Speaking at The Capital City Academy, where she gave a poetry lesson to year eight pupils, she said that the focus on testing children wasn't helping to improve standards.

Citing the United States as an example, Ms Atwell highlighted the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress test results, that saw maths scores for 10-year-olds and 14-year-olds across the US drop for the first time since the tests began in 1990.

She said: "In the States we are consumed with a set of national standards called the Common Core curriculum. As a result of these new set of standards, kids only read three or four books a year, as opposed to the 40 books my students read."

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 51 PICK UP A FREE COPY Thursday, November 19th 2015

Prince's start-up primer is pitch perfect

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PRINCE Andrew has overtaken Lord Sugar as the UK's No 1 mentor for young entrepreneurs eager to make it in business with bright new ideas.

After just one year in operation, the Duke of York's alternative to the cut-throat and controversial BBC show *The Apprentice* is now celebrating generating more than £100 million of investments in clever and enterprising start-up schemes.

Unlike the TV show infamous for its catchphrase "you're fired!" and criticised by Sir Michael Parkinson as being "full of vulgar, loud people who, for all the wrong reasons, are dobbing each other in", Andrew's version prefers to say "you're hired!"

The prince is winning praise from all areas of British business for his innovative scheme – Pitch@Palace – through which, instead of having to try sell

TURN TO PAGE 2

■ ROYAL RALLYING CALL: Prince Andrew encourages young entrepreneurs.

Doh! Harry and Homer?

IS Prince Harry to join America's first family – not the Obamas, but The Simpsons?

Producers of the world's favourite TV show have confirmed that Harry is No 1 on their wishlist of top names who they want to record a cameo appearance.

Both Prince Harry and Prince William have been fans of The Simpsons since they were children and TV chiefs have already attempted to try to get William on the show, sending him and the Duchess of Cambridge a personal invitation from Homer when they visited the US after their wedding four years ago.

Homer wrote: "We know your time is precious, and you must be very tired from your busy schedule back home of jousting and fighting dragons. Visiting The Simpsons will provide an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange. In England at four o'clock, you have tea and scones. Whereas at four o'clock here, I have beer and beer.

"If you agree to visit our little show, I promise I will be amusing, my wife will be gracious, my daughters will be charming, and my son will be duct-taped to the boiler in the basement.

"PS. If you knighted me, that would be so awesome. It would really impress the guys at Moe's."

However, it is believed that due to protocol affecting the heir to the throne William could not accept the invita-

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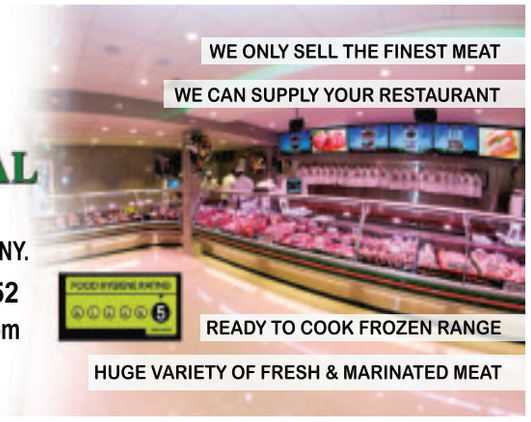

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ROYAL LONDON

Andrew links new entrepreneurs with investors

Pitch battles at the palace

FROM PAGE 1

their idea or invention to a lugubrious panel in the TV studio, young entrepreneurs are invited to make their pitch at St James's Palace.

Pitch@Palace takes place twice a year, with the young businesspeople pitching to a select audience of around 300 CEOs, investors and business leaders. Since the event was launched last year a total of £103 million has been invested in participating companies.

Two weeks ago 15 entrepreneurs from all over the UK went to the Palace with their new business bids. They were selected by a panel of judges from a group of 42 start-ups who revealed their ideas at a "bootcamp" event at Imperial College London last month.

The winning pitch came from Unmade, a new company which has built a 3D printer for knitted clothes, which allows people to custom-design knitwear that is manufactured just for them in 90 minutes at a factory in Somerset House.

A previous competitor, Mark Holdsworth, creator of Half Hitch designer gin, praised Prince Andrew's scheme for opening doors to help his business boom.

"When I launched Half Hitch Gin last November I did not anticipate being invited by the Duke of York to St James's Palace, only six weeks after my launch, nor for Half Hitch Gin to be in the reception cocktail at his Pitch@Palace event," said Mr Holdsworth.

"With an audience of the Britain's leading business leaders, this has quickly led to some fantastic introductions and allowed me to bring my premium gin to influential bar industry figures. The power of referrals from these initial advocates has been extraordinary and, whilst it's still very early days, I have been taken aback by the resulting speed of listings in London's premier bars and restaurants.

"There remain of course many hurdles to building my gin business in the UK and beyond but I will be eternally grateful to the exposure that the Duke of York and the Pitch@Palace enterprise has given Half HitchGin."

Other fledgling companies that are being helped to fly by Pitch@Palace include Lifebox, started by a student from Imperial College's Dyson School of Design Engineering and which makes a low-cost baby incubator for newborns in developing countries; Appear Here, a start-up that establishes pop-up shops in unused retail spaces and which has raised £5.75m from investors, like Balderton Capital; and Toothscan, which tracks patients' dental health history using a pulse of light.

The Duke of York said: "The goal of Pitch@Palace is to celebrate the innovation that entrepreneurship actually delivers to the UK, and it is trying to raise the profile of enterprising activity by individuals and companies.

"We are seeing many, many more young people conducting entrepreneurial activity. Now that we are generating businesses that are successful, if we can reduce the risk in people's minds... then that is what I am trying to achieve."

Besides organising Pitch@Palace, Prince Andrew is also personally promoting the inventors and business chiefs of tomorrow on his own website, with the Duke of York's Entrepreneur of the Week, a tipster's page highlighting interesting start-ups and what's hot coming up.

For more details and a list of inventions of the next bright young things, go to *www.dukeofyork.org*

■ PROFIT PROPHET: Prince Andrew introduces new businesses to investors, mentors and angels.

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Will Prince Harry be allowed to make royal visit to Springfield?

FROM PAGE 1

tion. But, as protocol is more relaxed for Harry he may be permitted to take up an offer.

Ordinarily, it would be unlikely that Harry would make an in-character TV appearance, even following the glorious precedent set by his grandmother when The Queen made her triumphant cameo as a Bond Girl with 007 Daniel Craig for the London Olympics.

However, the prince is passionately dedicated to promoting his Invictus Games, the international Paralympic-style games for wounded and injured service men and women which will be held in the States next year – and if an appropriate Invictus-linked storyline was created for *The Simpsons*, Harry may be persuaded to appear as the worldwide publicity for the games and their good cause of caring for wounded veterans would be unparalleled.

Harry would also be in illustrious company, for among those luminaries who have recorded a voice-over for the show are Tony Bennett, Stephen Hawkin, Tom Hanks, Buzz Aldrin, Paul and Linda McCartney, JK Rowling, Dustin Hoffman and Sir Patrick Stewart. Bosses at *The Simpsons* are not alone in wanting Prince Harry to send ratings through the roof. Among other TV shows and movies that have extended an invitation for him to make a guest star appearance are *Top Gear, Game Of Thrones, Entourage* and *Top Gun*. Hollywood idol Tom Cruise reportedly wants Harry as a co-pilot in the forthcoming *Top Gun 2*, which is now in development. According to an agent currently casting the movie, Cruise wants Harry because "he offers real experience and knowledge of flying in combat".

Although the sky-high insurance premium which would be required to cover a royal flying around getting filmed in jets is likely to make that request prohibitive, the relative ease of Harry lending his voice to Springfield to promote a good cause may yet be given serious consideration at Kensington Palace.

■ WHEN HARRY MET HOMER: A unique royal visit.

Pupils join prince's online green campaign

ROYAL LONDON

100 schools go gardening with Charles

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PRINCE Charles's seedling project to encourage children to become gardeners is about to mark a milestone with the 100th school signing up to his sustainability blogging scheme.

Already 98 infant and primary schools are blogging in the Prince of Wales's Mygrove challenge, where children are urged to create their own mini versions of his Highgrove-style garden; organically growing their own vegetables and flowers and sharing the stories of their successes with the prince and other schools by writing on Charles's own website.

On Monday, November 30, Charles will deliver a crucial keynote speech to world leaders at a conference in Paris on sustainability, climate change and the urgent need for change in the treatment of the environment.

In his speech – delivered at the end of the point-proving warmest November in history – Charles will stress the importance of progressing sustainability for the next generation. And at home he is already setting the best example by nurturing that generation through his Mygrove scheme.

In introducing schools to the far-sighted project, Charles says: "Welcome to Mygrove, a site which has been specially designed for you to share in the fun of growing your own plants and vegetables.

"As a keen gardener and farmer myself, it is wonderful to see the seasons producing different flowers and fruits from the golden daffodils of early spring to the ripe red apples of autumn.

"Through your school, we'd like you to join our Mygrove challenge keeping an up-to-date online blog about your own growing experiences. Whether you are creating a herb garden, tending a vegetable patch, building a bird box or simply growing flowers in a window box, we would like to hear from you.

"At the same time as telling us about your own experiences, you can also read about what other schools are growing, as well as following what we are up to in my own garden at Highgrove.

"You never know, you might pick up some ideas!

"I often think that gardening is a bit like painting. No matter how big or small the piece of paper or canvas you start with, it is what you create which matters!"

As head gardener at Mygrove, Charles has had great success cultivating interest and participation from hundreds of schools all over the UK, which are given growing and soil tips by the head eco-master himself.

The schools are also invited to take part in a best blog competition, with the winners receiving a day out at Highgrove, Charles's family home in Gloucestershire.

Last year the competition was won by pupils at Poplar Primary School in Wimbledon.

More than 30 children aged 10 and 11 enjoyed a day at the royal residence, with a treasure hunt in the Walled Garden where Prince Charles grows his own fruit and vegetables, an art class by teachers from The Prince's Drawing School and a cooking lesson from his chefs to show the children how they can cook what they can grow.

In order to sign up for Prince Charles's Mygrove challenge, you should go to the Children's Section on his dedicated website, *www.princeofwales.gov.uk*

■ **GREEN GIANT: Prince Charles is encouraging children to get involved in gardening projects through his website scheme, Mygrove.**

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

November 17th

■ **The Duchess of Cambridge** will attend the Fostering Excellence Awards at BMA House, Tavistock Square WC1.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh** will open a conference of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation at Lambeth Palace.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Colonel in Chief, Royal Army Medical Corps, will attend a Reception at Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square.

■ **Princess Alexandra**, as President, Royal Humane Society, will attend the Stanhope Gold Medal lunch at Fishmongers Hall, London Bridge.

November 18th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Admiral and Member, Royal Yacht Squadron, will hold a dinner to mark the Squadron's Bicentenary, at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a breakfast meeting at the Lanesborough Hotel, Hyde Park Corner.

■ **The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee**, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a Trustees' Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee**, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend The Trustees' Dinner at the Lanesborough Hotel, Hyde Park Corner.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron, Moor House School, will attend a dinner at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane EC2.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, Save the Children UK, will attend the Secret Winter Gala at the Guildhall, Gresham Street EC2.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as President, will attend King Edward VII's Hospital Friends Annual Reception at Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood Road.

November 19th

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Honorary Vice President, Royal Geographical Society, will open the Antarctic Legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Frank Hurley Exhibition, Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, UK Youth, will hold a 5 Nations Dinner and Award Ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

November 20th

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, Royal Yachting Association, will chair the Annual General Meeting, and attend an Awards Ceremony, Reception and Luncheon at One Great George Street, Westminster.

November 23rd

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron, the Healing Foundation, will hold a reception at St James's Palace.

November 24th

■ **The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will attend a Service at Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Tenth General Synod of the Church of England followed by the Inauguration Ceremony in Church House.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature International, will present The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal and hold a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, will open the Youth Employment Convention 2015 at the Mermaid, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, Racing Welfare, will attend a Reception at The Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, will attend a Public Speaking Event to celebrate the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange at Dartmouth House, Charles Street W1.

SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

At 57 Madonna proves that who dares wins

Still top of the shocks

by Geoff Baker

POOR Madonna. Now there's two words you don't see together a lot, particularly when applied to the woman who was named by Billboard last Christmas as the recording artist who had eclipsed Paul McCartney to become the richest in the world.

But that was last year and this year, according to no less an august authority than the *New Zealand Daily Herald*, the queen of pop is on the skids.

"Is Madonna losing her appeal?" the *Herald* wailed last week, reporting that apparently her Rebel Heart tour is "making 50 per cent less than her previous MDNA tour".

Ah, that'll be the reason why she is playing a couple of sold-out nights at the O2 next month, then; there's probably no room for her underneath the arches of Waterloo Bridge with all of the other down and outs.

It is not clear quite how Madonna's latest transformation into an alleged has-been fits with the fact that, before she recently brought the tour to Europe, the *Rebel Heart* trek had notched up sales of £30 million from playing to 300,000 fans at 24 shows and is still the hottest ticket in all of the towns that it visits.

But you know what it's like when the critics say you're skidding; what's massive success got to do with anything when a down-table sub in Auckland reckons you've had it?

Anyway, it gets worse. According to that other provincial thunderer, *The Johannesberg Times*, "Madonna is anti-social" these days.

How's that then? Has she had an ASBO? According to the *Times*, "She said: 'I have a very disciplined life. I don't do a lot of socialising. My life revolves around my show and my four children and trying to live a very healthy lifestyle. The only thing I'm lacking now is sleep.'"

Quite possibly her insomnia is brought about from fretting that some newspaper headline writers do not know the difference between not socialising and anti-social, but then one equally might imagine that the Guinness Records-listed biggest-selling female recording artist of all time has had enough by now of the media's bite-sized Cassandras getting it wrong.

Yet still, in the face of all of this contrived calamity from the backwoods, Madonna soldiers on, daring to defy the parish pump doom-mongers because it's in her DNA.

"For some strange reason, daring has become my raison d'être," she told *Harpers Bazaar* last year. "If I can't be daring in my work or the way I live my life, then I don't really see the point of being on this planet.

"That may sound rather extremist, but growing up in a suburb in the Midwest was all I needed to understand that the world was divided into two categories: people who followed the status quo and played it safe, and people who threw convention out the window and danced to the beat of a different drum.

"I hurled myself into the second category, and soon discovered that being a rebel and not conforming doesn't make you very popular. In fact, it does the opposite. You are viewed as a suspicious character. A troublemaker. Someone dangerous."

REBEL WITHOUT A CARE: Madonna's enduring appeal is founded on her desire to dare.

Now what makes for being a rebel in the Mid West is not that big a deal; "daring" behaviour in the outpost of Ohio and the other conservative states that make up the moral majority's Camp Bastion would not turn London's hair white. But just now the dangerous troublemaker is at it again, getting a bit of stick for spanking. Ooo-err.

Seemingly the singer caused all sorts of shocking minx reports last week after actress Jessica Chastain appeared on stage with her and then Tweeted: "I spanked Madonna and I've a video to prove it."

Well actually Jessica, as you and everyone else who is not a member of the Gross Exaggeration Society knows, you did no such thing. You just patted her rear four times during a dance routine; the Marquis De Sade is not in fear of being usurped. But hey, that's those crazy, playing-it-safe people for you; you make a pat and they see a spank, and this small town relish to communally amplify much of what Madonna does has just made her bigger and bigger.

Although, as Madonna says, "it's a little bit easier to be daring, especially if you are a pop star, because eccentric behavior is expected from you", but surely your 'eccentricity' doesn't also make people blind?

But apparently it does. Take the row and all of that "shouldn't be allowed" that followed her early hit, *Like A Virgin*. There was all manner of small-minded stink over that, with fundamentalists calling for her to be banned and outlawed as a threat to Western decency, a siren for promiscuity. But even the most casual reading of the lyrics reveals no such thing, as Madonna agrees.

"I was surprised by how people reacted to *Like a Virgin* because when I did that song, to me, I was singing about how something made me feel a certain way – brand-new and fresh – and everyone interpreted it as 'I don't want to be a virgin anymore, stuff my brains out!' But that's not what I sang at all. *Like a Virgin* was always absolutely ambiguous," she said.

But the song became a monster hit and therein lies the genius of Madonna; it is not that she is especially prurient, it is that she has recognised that that first category she identified, the play-safers, have a naive expectation of what makes for prurience; like giddy aunts getting all bashful and twittery over those unusually-shaped carrots that Esther Rantzen used to hold up on *That's Life*.

Now, as anyone who has travelled a little in America knows, it's not particularly difficult to pull the shock trick in the Mid West, that super-sensitive land where asking for a packet of fags in a tobacconist will get you run out of town.

But there's a lot of Mid West mentality in this world, which explained her follow-up in 1989 when, once again playing to the play-safers, her publicity machine generated the sensation that the vicar of Christ on Earth had denounced her as some sort of Satanic Jezebel.

According to reports, The Pope and much of the Catholic world recoiled in outrage at the sight of her kissing the feet of a statue of a black saint in the video for *Like A Prayer*, causing such a rage of misunderstanding that she was dropped by her sponsors, Pepsi.

To this day, her biographers use adjectives of shock to describe the video, hoo-hahing about the "sacrilege" of its burning crosses when anyone remotely balanced might more accurately see it as a comment on the more real evil of the Ku Klux Klan.

However, playing to innuendo paid off again and the *Like A Prayer* album sold 15 million copies, spawned three number one singles including the apparently-seditious title track and MTV gave her the Greatest Music Video Star Ever Award for it.

The same formula of "there's gold in those rednecks" worked again a year later with the release of the *Justify My Love* video, in which Madonna, styled no more threateningly than an 'Allo 'Allo waitress, has a cuddle with a bloke in a hotel room. I say a cuddle, but according to a current biographer, "the music video featured scenes of sadomasochism, bondage, same-sex kissing, and brief nudity".

Err... no it didn't, not by any grown-up understanding of S&M and bondage, and as for "brief" nudity, OK sure, but only if you are the sort of weirdo who puts the video player on frame-by-frame slow motion to freeze what was otherwise a micro-second flash to the normal human eye.

But, again, more Mid West outrage; it was deemed too sexually explicit for MTV and was banned from the network. Once again Madonna protested her innocence – "Why is it that people are willing to go and watch a movie about someone getting blown to bits for no reason at all, and nobody wants to see two girls kissing and two men snuggling?"

The answer to that, of course, is because they are thick and meek; but who cares, but once also again, bonanza! The album the video was released to promote, *The Immaculate Collection*, sold 30 million copies.

And so it has gone on for more than 25 years, Madonna and "shocking" walking hand-in-hand to the bank as the easily-outraged fall for the trick every time. Doubtless when Madonna takes to the stage at the O2 on December 1 we'll get more of the same – first outcry over her "daring" outfits, which are barely more salacious than much of Marks & Spencer's lingerie catalogue, followed by rocketing sales.

But good luck to her. If a 57-year-old woman whose raunchy look inspired the creation of everyone from Pink, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and Kylie to Beyonce, Rita Ora, Lady Gaga and Miley Cyrus can still make an arena gasp at the sight of a near-pensioner in black thigh boots and suspenders, then good for her.

Authentic Sardinian food, Sapori Sardi is a fine Italian restaurant located in Fulham Road.

"simple, yet fantastico!"

Adrian Seal - Restaurant reviewer for getwestlondon

Sapori Sardi is a haven of authentic Sardinian food and carefully selected Italian wines. Sapori Sardi is owned and run by husband and wife team, Piero and Gul, who have created a warm and friendly atmosphere and have been known to sit and chat with their diners over a glass of Mirto at the end of a busy day!

Piero Taris (Owner & Chef) was born in Sardinia and arrived in London in 1986, aged 26 and full of enthusiasm and passion for the unique flavours of his homeland.

Piero uses authentic products imported from Sardinia together with fresh local produce to prepare a menu that is refined and innovative whilst maintaining the strict traditions of his distinctive region. He has been cooking since he was 11, learning to bake bread from his father, Giulio, who was a Master baker in the Italian army during the 2nd World War.

Piero began working in a kitchen at 16 and was Head Chef at the age of 21 at the renowned Torre dei Corsari in Costa Verde. He has taught Italian Cuisine to chefs at some of the world's finest hotels including the Sheraton Group.

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Royal China Fulham Road

Feast away from busy city centre

THERE are no shortage of Chinese restaurants in Central and West London, but the Royal China group says it aims to achieve an excellence not met by its many competitors.

Its restaurant on the Fulham Road offers a homely feel, with its smaller and more intimate dining experience, while still attaining the high standards the group is renowned for across the city, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

I went for an early evening supper on a very damp November day and was warmed by the friendly greeting and excellent service.

My companion and I shared some starters and I was heartened to see that my shellfish allergy didn't restrict my choice, which is so often the case.

We started with deep fried Shimeji mushrooms with chilli and spicy salt (£12) from the specials menu and some spicy smoked shredded chicken (£6.80). The mushrooms were served in a bird's nest basket and were deep fried in batter to give a succulent finish but with a hot kick. The overall taste was great but I did find them just a little too salty for my palate.

The spicy smoked shredded chicken was very piquant in crisp batter and served with chopped green chillies to add that extra heat.

For the main course I chose roast duck Cantonese style (£11.20) served with egg fried rice (£4.20). My fellow diner went for the chicken with chilli on chiu chow style (£10.80), with mixed vegetable noodles (£8.20). The duck was perfectly cooked with the sweet sauce beautifully enveloping the succulent flesh of the poultry.

The chicken was again pretty fiery and not that dissimilar to the starter, so given the choice again, I think my counterpart would have gone for a different option. It was also just a little too dry, served with crispy noodles, and would have benefitted from either the soft alternative or an added sauce.

We washed the meal down with some delicious Spanish Tempranillo Reinares (£20) and some tap water to help soothe the heat in our maws.

I had hoped to sample the dim sum, for which the restaurant is famed, but actually it wasn't obviously on the menu to select and I felt too embarrassed to ask.

I realised on inspection of the website that it is on a different menu, but this needs to be made a little more apparent to the regular polite British diner. Having said that, our meal was good and for a cost of £73.20 was very reasonable.

If you're looking for a pleasing Chinese meal away from the scrum of central London, the Royal China in Fulham Road is a worthy alternative and with attentive but not imposing staff, will give you a good-value meal and the perfect atmosphere to chat with friends.

■ TIME TO CHAT: The Royal China in the Fulham Road.

■ ROYAL TREATS: Dim sum, top, and honey glazed pork puffs.

Big Mac gets all grown up and sophisticated

ONE of things I love about my job is the vast variety of things I get to do. Last week was no different when I was invited to the new McDonald's restaurant in Cambridge Circus, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

It's been a while since my last visit and the technological advances are obvious, with self-service tills and a much more deluxe look to the overall decor.

The international super brand is facing stiff competition from chains like Five Guys and Byron's hamburgers and so have launched a new range of superior quality burgers with a very different and much more opulent look to the branding.

I was given three burgers to taste. McDonald's have announced they are going to pilot these three – designed to offer something entirely new to customers in the UK.

The Signature Collection launches in 28 restaurants and was created by McDonald's team of food specialists and their prestigious Chefs Council. The council is a team of chefs with a wide range of experience from Michelin-starred restaurants to cooking for international royalty. The range of premium burgers features a thicker beef patty made from 100 per cent British and Irish beef.

I first tried the The Classic, which is a 100 per cent British and Irish beef patty, two rashers of Beechwood smoked bacon, a slice of natural cheddar cheese, wholegrain mustard mayo, ketchup, Batavia lettuce and red onion in a Brioche-style bun.

I was pleasantly surprised by the taste of the burger and I'm sure it will be a winner with regular burger lovers. The bread is quite sweet, which makes the larger style burger and bun very filling. I also enjoyed the fresh lettuce, which added a coolness and crispness to the overall experience.

Next I sampled the BBQ, again a 100 per cent British and Irish beef patty but this time with a smoky barbecue sauce, coleslaw, red onion, Batavia lettuce, Beechwood smoked bacon and a slice of natural cheddar cheese in a Brioche-style bun.

This had a really lovely mix of flavours, with the barbecue sauce complementing the beef perfectly and the added coleslaw giving the burger a very summery feel.

My favourite offering from the new collection was the Spicy, which is again a 100 per cent British and Irish beef patty but with Jalapeño slices, Pepper Jack cheese, Batavia lettuce, mayo and a spicy relish in a Brioche-style bun. I like hot food so this always looked like it was going to be a winner for me.

The mix of tastes was very good, and the mayo added just enough coolness to take away some of the burn.

I don't profess to be a burger connoisseur, but I was impressed with this new range. They are, however, very filling, due to the larger size, so a side may not be necessary with one of these.

The trial is taking place in 28 restaurants in London and the South, and is set to be rolled out across the country next summer, when the Signature Collection will become a permanent item on the menu in around 400 refurbished.

In the not too distant future, the company hopes to introduce the option of customising burgers.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chocolate dipped chestnuts

Makes 20 or so

These make great little after-dinner chocolates – alternatively, box or bag them up as Christmas gifts or put them under the tree for people to nibble on.

Ingredients

200-250g good-quality 70 per cent dark chocolate, broken into pieces

20 or so candied chestnuts, drained

20 or so cocktail sticks

Method

PUT the chocolate pieces in a dry, clean bowl over a pan of simmering water, heat for five minutes or so, stirring every so often until the chocolate has melted.

Line a tray with clingfilm. Dry the chestnuts off with some paper, then skewer them with a cocktail stick and dip into the chocolate until evenly coated; then transfer and stand on the clingfilm.

Once set, store in a sealed container in a cool place.

■ LUCKY DIP: Chocolate dipped chestnuts – ideal for the forthcoming season of goodwill.

Talk Of The Town

Music I Theatre I Reviews

Elf ****

Christmas cracker's a family hit

SNOW WONDER: Kimberley Walsh and Ben Forster, above, and left, the Elf team on stage. Pictures: Piers Allardyce and Alastair Muir.

CHRISTMAS has well and truly started in central London, with lights twinkling above the streets, billboards adorned with holly and the new production of *Elf* finally open at the Dominion Theatre.

The stars came out in force for the opening night charity gala of the new musical, which is based on the 2003 film starring Will Ferrell and follows the story of Buddy, an elf who spends his early life growing up in Santa's workshops.

The film-to-stage trend has proved to be very successful in recent years, with musicals like *Ghost* and *Bend It Like Beckham* enjoying huge success – but staging a show based on a film that is loved by millions of children across the world was always going to be a gamble.

This risk has paid off however, with *Elf* the musical managing to keep the charm and humour of the original movie but with the addition of just enough Broadway kitsch to make it feel like an old fashioned Christmas spectacular. With plenty of big-tapping production numbers and an abundance of jazz hands, not to mention the obligatory snow, *Elf* has all of the magical elements you would expect from a Christmas show.

Ben Forster as the eponymous hero is simply a gem. Cute, funny and energetic, with just the most glorious baritone voice, Forster is the lynchpin around which everything else in the show revolves. Playing his love interest, the sarcastic and somewhat ascorbic Jovi, is former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh, who doesn't get a huge amount of stage time but makes the most of it when she gets her chance to shine. Her *Never Fall in Love* in act two was met with rapturous applause from the gala night audience, which included former band mates Nicola Roberts and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini.

Joe McGann, as Buddy's father, plays the stiff suit with ease and Jessica Martin is excellent as the glamorous and not-a-bit-evil stepmom. I must also make special mention of Jennie Dale, who at times completely steals the show as the cheeky and lovable personal assistant Deb.

There are some very specifically New York references within the script, which at times fall on deaf ears with a predominantly British audience and if tweaked would make the dialogue funnier and easier to follow – but there are jokes for all ages and some of the classic Ferrell quotes have been kept in for fans of the film.

The staging is light and vibrant and with the projected backdrops, is able to convey the many different scenes, which range from the North Pole to the New York skyline. Every bit of Christmas magic is exploited, with a slightly frightening ice-skating scene and the climactic take-off of Santa's sleigh, which, with the addition of snow, is really captivating.

Funny, charming and just about as much Christmas as you can fit into a two-and-a-bit-hour show, *Elf* will leave you feeling warm and ready for the long slog of the festive period.

Nicky Sweetland

FULL VOICE: Joe McGann as Walter Hobbs with the cast in Elf, the musical. Picture: Alastair Muir

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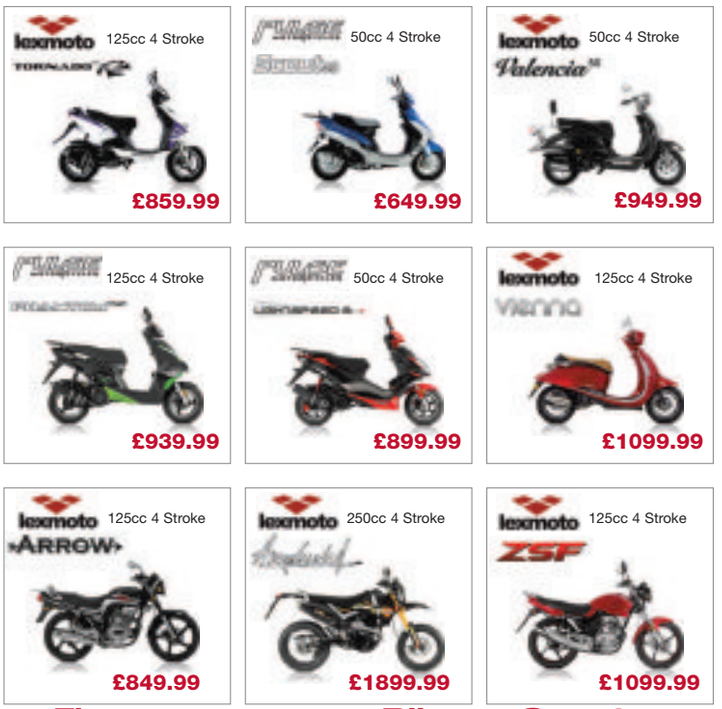

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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Billy Elliot at the Victoria PalaceTheatre

To December 17

Billy Elliot is a funny, heart-warming and feel-good celebration of one young boy's dream in a gripping tale of triumph over adversity. This original story captured the hearts and minds of the world when the movie was released in October 2000. Nominated for three Oscars and 13 Bafta awards, this poignant film broke box office records across the world.

Elf the musical at the Dominion Theatre

To January 2

This year's festive must-see show is going to be this heart-warming extravaganza. The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices. The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

The Jack Tars at the 100 Club

November 25

The band features four of the great punk rock legends from across the globe: Captain Sensible from The Damned, Slim Jim Phantom from Stray Cats, Chris Cheney from The Living End and Mike Peters from The Alarm. This is the first time the group have played together in the UK and the evening promises to be one not to miss for any punk rock fans.For further information visit their website *thejacktars.com*

Carmen at the Royal Opera House

To November 30

Experience the power and magnetism of Bizet's most popular opera as Carmen returns to the stage at the Royal Opera House. His 17th and final opera, Carmen tells the story of Don Jose, an inexperienced young soldier seeking to marry Micaela, a girl that he knows from his home village.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016

Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe.

In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex. Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so.

Walt Disney's Sleigh Bells at BFI Southbank

December 12

The world premiere of the new restoration of the Walt Disney film *Sleigh Bells* (1928), featuring the first-ever Disney character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, a long-eared precursor to Mickey Mouse, will take place at BFI Southbank on December 12 as part of a programme It's A Disney Christmas: Seasonal Shorts, screening other festive Disney gems from the 1930s to the present day.

Cats at the London Palladium

Until January 2

Enduringly popular musical Cats will play at the London Palladium for a strictly limited run until January 2 2016. Beverley Knight is Grizabella the Glamour Cat. For more details visit the website *catsthemusical.com*

Through the Mill at London Theatre Workshop

December 1 to 19

Through the Mill – a new play by Ray Rackham featuring a hit list of Judy Garland's greatest standards will get its world premiere in a three-week season at London Theatre Workshop from Tuesday, December 1 to Saturday, December 19. For more details visit their website *londontheatreworkshop.com*

British Museum of Food

To January23

Never before has the subject of food been explored so powerfully, with a series of exhibits that align with the quirky and disruptive style of the studio's approach to communicating food and drink coupled with the ethos and values of a serious museum. Located in a building at Borough Market across two floors.

Winterville 2015

November 26 to December 23

Winterville returns to Victoria Park, East London with another packed programme of attractions, entertainment and food and drink. Built around the Winterville clock tower, this little festive town offers seasonal classics and dazzling alternatives for all ages. Entry to Winterville is free, but most events and activities require a paid-for ticket.

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■ **GRIPPING DRAMA: Bertie Carvel in The Hairy Ape**

Steaming into the class divide

The Hairy Ape ***

THIS was the second offering from new artistic director Matthew Warchus at the Old Vic and marked a return to using the regular proscenium arch stage of the grand old theatre, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The Hairy Ape, Eugene O'Neill's 1922 Expressionist play about a ship stoker on an ocean liner is a brave and ballsy production to have chosen.

It depicts a class divide and the helplessness a member of society's underclass can feel when it is cruelly illustrated to him by someone from higher up the social standing.

The central character, a macho American played by Bertie Carvel, is at times really quite frightening and with his brothers in the belly of the ship provides a noisy and visually exhausting performance. The garish bright yellow of the set and extreme lighting is at times really quite hard on the eyes but allows the senses to be well and truly filled with the artistry of the piece.

Steffan Rhodri, fresh from the *Mentalists* at the Wyndham's Theatre again shows his stage excellence as a drunken Irishman stuck in the past and Callum Dixon is masterful as the politically motivated stoker who is trying to enlist his colleagues. The biggest star for me was the seemingly real gorilla which, had it not been for the lack of a silver back, could, to all intents and purposes, have been borrowed from London Zoo.

■ **The Hairy Ape** runs at the Old Vic until November 21

Baggage handler

THE West End smash-hit comedy *Handbagged* is soon to take up residence at the Richmond Theatre and some very special leading ladies will be requesting an audience.

Queen Elizabeth II and Dame Margaret Thatcher will be gracing the stage under the glorious Richmond pros arch for an exciting but limited run from November 23 to 28.

Following a sell-out success at London's Tricycle Theatre, Moira Buffini's Olivier award-winning comedy will bring its very special insight as it speculates on the weekly conversations between two of the world's most powerful women, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

Susie Blake stars as Her Majesty the Queen alongside Kate Fahy in the production, which she describes as being filled with satire, and portraying an endearing and exceptionally comedic side of our monarch. She tells me: "I'm not a great Thatcher fan and I'm not very political. I adore the Queen so I was glad to see she comes across as very witty and very good fun."

The actress, who is probably best known for her onscreen exploits with comedy legend Victoria Wood, but who has also appeared in *Coronation Street* and alongside Richard Wilson in BBC1's *One foot in the Grave*, is no stranger to London theatre-goers, having played the indomitable Madame Morrible in the smash hit musical *Wicked*. The 65-year-old actress has lived much of her life in Barnes and is looking forward to the Richmond leg of the tour, and the easier commute to work each day on the bus.

■ **THE BOSS: Susie Blake.**

To better understand the role Susie watched YouTube clips of the Queen at public engagements and in some of the royal family's endearing home videos in order to try to gauge the real woman beneath the crown, and has found she shares a great deal of empathy with our sovereign.

"I definitely identify with her sense of humour, her love of her family and her incredible loyalty to us all. I think that's something we could all learn from her. Even if now and again we've disagreed with her decisions as far as her family goes, she has really tried to do the right thing and she really cares, really really cares and especially about the Commonwealth, so in that sense I've become a complete devotee of the Queen. I absolutely love her."

The production covers an 11-year timeline in which the Queen and Thatcher would meet to discuss affairs of state. The play charts imagined conversations between the two super powers and surmises the way their relationship may have developed.

Susie has loved learning more about this snapshot of British history and says: "They weren't even that fond of each other. They didn't have anything in common so it was a very difficult thing to do."

■ **Handbagged** will run at The Richmond Theatre from November 23 to 28. For more details visit their website *handbaggedtheplay.com*

Talk Of The Town

COLOUR MATCH: Lee Mead stars in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Lee gives classics a youthful flourish

LEE Mead first shot to stardom after winning the BBC's search-for-a-star TV programme *Any Dream Will Do*.

The show saw Mead chosen by the public to play the title role in the West End revival of the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Eight years later and with a celebrity marriage, numerous successful stage roles and a two-year stint on the TV show *Casualty* behind him, Lee will once again take to the West End stage when his *Some Enchanted Evening* tour reaches its culmination at the Garrick Theatre on December 6. Lee has somehow managed to juggle both the tour and his filming for *Casualty* in Cardiff and still found time to talk to me, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

"I'm really enjoying it. It's a short tour of only ten concerts because I'm filming *Casualty* at the moment so I'm in Cardiff during the week. It took about four or five months to put the tour together so we're going to continue it into next year. I've got a fourth album coming out in March with songs from the same show and then the plan is to do a couple of dates in March and then do a full tour next October."

The tour is named after the song which was made famous by Perry Como and comes from the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical *South Pacific*. Lee has long been a fan of the old musicals and watching them as a child provided the spark that first ignited his interest in becoming a performer. Choosing the songs for both the tour and the album was a difficult task but Lee explains why he wanted to perform this type of music.

"That was kind of one of the reasons for me wanting to do this tour. The initial reaction could be, oh it's songs from the 40s and 50s and songs that can be quite fuddy duddy and a bit old but I thought it would be really nice to produce those songs for a younger audience and a much wider audience, but also do them in a really modern and fresh way. I think we've achieved that with the arrangements of the songs and I think that was the trick to make sure the arrangements weren't a carbon copy from that era."

Lee comperes the evening himself and talks about the composers and lyricists of the era as well as telling stories from his life and career. With a band, including a full sized grand piano, you can expect a big authentic sound to go along with Lee's glorious vocals.

As the Garrick concert is on December 6, much of the capital will be festooned with lights and holly ready for the festive period and Lee has promised some Christmas carols as part of his set to help get everyone in the spirit. The concert will just be the start of Lee's busy festive period however, with the star joining friends Julian Clary and Marti Pellow in one of the country's biggest pantomimes in Birmingham, where he will play the role of Aladdin. He then goes from flying carpet to flying car when he takes on the part of Caractacus Potts in the touring production of Ian Fleming's children's masterpiece *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Lee will be finishing as Lofty on *Casualty* within the next few weeks but assures me the door has been left open for his return. Without the trek back and forth to Cardiff, he hopes he will get to spend more time with his five-year-old daughter, Betsy.

"I don't want to miss out on her years too much. I'm on the road for three months and I've got my tour but I've got half the year off so I'll be able to do the school runs and things and just be around. Hopefully it will be a nice balance next year."

Lee Mead will be performing at the Garrick Theatre on December 6. For more details visit his website *leemead.co.uk*

CLASSICS REVISITED: Lee Mead will strike a nostalgic tone on December 6. Picture: Poppy Carter

Lyric's kids lead way in Cinderella

THIS Christmas the Lyric Hammersmith is presenting the pantomime spectacular Cinderella. *Nicky Sweetland* was allowed into the rehearsal room to see the show being put together

THE Lyric is staging the classic fairytale this year but with an urban flavour that's typical of a theatre with a youth programme and community involvement almost unrivalled in the city.

The rags-to-riches story has also been echoed in the casting of the production, which sees two Young Lyric alumni taking on principal roles alongside celebrities Sam Buttery and Sara Crowe.

Marking her professional stage debut, Krystal Dockery will take on the role of Cinderella. The young actress has spent the last year working at the Lyric as an assistant drama teacher. Her Prince Charming will be played by Karl Queensborough, who first started performing at the Lyric when he was at college and now, following professional training, returns to the place which first ignited his interest in theatre.

I managed to collar the pair for a chat before they started the day's rehearsals for the show, which promises to be an extravaganza when it opens this Saturday, November 21. The young actors told me how their story has a much more contemporary twist and

LOVED UP: Krystal Dockery as Cinderella and Karl Queensborough as Prince Charming. Picture: Helen Maybanks

explained the differences between their characters and the usual run-of-the-mill pantomime sweethearts.

Krystal said: "It's a bit of a different setting. It's cool and a bit more urban, with some really upbeat songs, so it's following the same storyline but it's just a bit different. Cinderella's quite nice. She's quite headstrong but in a laid back sort of way so she is a bit ditsy."

Karl said: "He's quite awkward actually, this Prince Charming. There's a lot of pressure on him from his dad to find a wife for this ball and if he doesn't choose one for himself then his dad is going to choose one for him. Then he bumps into Cinderella and he falls in love with her but because he's quite awkward he doesn't know how to chat her up or woo her. He's the prince of the kingdom and I think he's quite happy about that but he's not as confident or as smooth as some other Prince Charmings."

Both stars have come up through the ranks, having performed in the ensembles of previous Lyric pantomimes before undertaking their professional training.

For further information visit the theatre's website *lyric.co.uk*

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Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

19 Wallflower Street W12 2015/05199/FUL
Erection of an aluminium-framed rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition following demolition of the existing rear extension at first floor level; and replacement all existing UPVC windows and doors on front, side and rear elevations to timber-framed windows and doors.

22 Binden Road W12 2015/04337/FUL
Minor material amendment to planning permission reference: 2015/01161/FUL granted on 7th May 2015 for the "Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of part of the front to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement."
Amendments include replacing the sloping roof extension to the side of the back addition with a flat roof extension, and installation of new roof lights and rear crittall doors and installation of two new windows in the side elevation (Revised Application Form and Description)

571 - 573 King's Road SW6 2015/05188/FUL
Erection of an extension to the rear external courtyard seating area with the enlargement of the existing timber-framed canopy.

1A Eyot Gardens W6 2015/04940/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront; installation of 2no gas lanterns to the front elevation; installation of a clock to the corner elevation fronting both Chiswick Mall and Eyot Gardens elevation at first floor level.

Hurlingham Club Ranelagh Gardens SW6 2015/05247/VAR
Variation of condition 3 of planning permission ref: 2007/00052/FUL granted 6th March 2007 to allow floodlights to be used up to 21:45 hours during the months of April and May only.

8 Hilary Road W12 2015/05248/FUL
Relocation and reducing the size of the vehicular entrance gates and railings to the front boundary; relocation of the communal entrance gate at the front boundary elevation.

32 Stowe Road W12 2015/05095/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of privacy screen in connection with the formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing window at the rear elevation, installation of a new window to the side of rear back addition at second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition following partial demolition of the single storey back addition; installation of new folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; formation of planters at basement level to the front of the property; conversion of the existing building from 2no self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse.

The Quadrangle 49 Atalanta Street SW6 2015/05194/FUL
Erection of an extension at roof level to house an internal staircase; erection of 1.1m and 1.7m (high) glass balustrades around the flat roof at roof level in connection the formation of a terrace; timber decking of part of the main roof at roof level; installation of 3no rooflights over the main flat roof at roof level.

Church Of God Loftus Road W12 2015/05254/FUL
Erection of an extension at first floor level to the western elevation, on top of the existing back addition.

18 Ravenscourt Gardens W6 2015/05123/FUL
Installation of 14no solar panels over the main flat roof at roof level.

70 North End Road W14 2015/05129/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat.

702H Fulham Road SW6 2015/05137/FUL
Conversion of the first and second floor level into 1 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

49 Sulivan Road SW6 2015/05142/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of new French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing window and new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

185 Dawes Road SW6 2015/05150/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level to the side of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

Rose Cottage 42 Crabtree Lane SW6 2015/05154/FUL
Demolition and rebuilding of the single storey outbuilding in the front garden; replacement of existing roller shutter door with wrought iron gates fronting Crabtree Lane.

Hammersmith Park Frithville Gardens London 2015/05160/ADV
Display of non-illuminated fascia signs to the front, rear and side elevation of the single storey building in the car parking area; display of 1no free standing advertisement hoarding along South Africa Park Road, 1no in front of the car parking entrance and 1no inside the car parking area.

66 Clancarty Road SW6 2015/05178/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Kensington Olympia Station Olympia Way W14 2015/04307/ADV
Display of 2no fascia signs to the front elevation of the building.

185 Dawes Road SW6 2015/05155/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, to the side and rear of the existing back additions.

1A Grimston Road SW6 2015/05053/FUL
Conversion of the existing two storey building fronting Grimston Road (Use Class B1) to provide three residential units (Use Class C3), including the erection of an additional floor at second floor level, and the insertion and replacement of windows and doors and associated alterations; demolition of the existing one and two storey buildings (Use Class B1) within the application site and the erection of a two storey building to provide six residential units (Use Class C3).

108 Bentworth Road W12 2015/05198/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension.

9 Foxglove Street W12 2015/05138/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to side of main building.

21 Rumbold Road SW6 2015/05207/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the lowering of the existing basement; and replacement of existing timber doors to the rear elevation at lower ground floor level with timber framed bi-folding doors.

20A Thornfield Road W12 2015/04466/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement.

Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road W14 2015/05225/ADV
Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and 2no internally illuminated double sided projecting signs to the main front entrance to replace the existing signs; display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to both side entrances of the Grand Hall to replace the existing signs.

Maisonette Ground And First Floors 39 Stowe Road W12 2015/05218/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope, 1no rooflight over the main flat roof and 1no rooflight over the second floor roof of back addition.

39 Rowan Road W6 2015/05047/FUL
Erection of single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing single storey rear extension; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and erection of railings around part of flat roof of the proposed single storey rear extension at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace.

41 Milson Road W14 2015/05048/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension.

24 Fulham Palace Road W6 2015/05175/FUL
Retention of a new shopfront.

118 Jeddo Road W12 2015/05265/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

5 Dewhurst Road W14 2015/05139/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

26 Hugon Road SW6 2015/04133/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of a new rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of a new dormer window to replace the existing window in the rear roofslope; replacement of existing windows with new windows at first floor level, to the side and rear elevation; erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

20A Thornfield Road W12 2015/04466/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement.

19 Wallflower Street W12 2015/05203/FUL
Erection of a 1.1 metre high timber balustrade around the flat roof of the existing back addition at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace.

5 Britannia Road SW6 2015/05177/FUL
Erection of a front dormer window in existing additional floor extension; erection of a two storey side extension at basement and ground floor levels; erection of a two storey rear extension at first floor levels. (Amended Description).

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04844/ADV
Display of externally illuminated logos fitted to each sides of the existing brackets to eastern elevation; display of neon sign at first floor level window internally to eastern and southern elevation; display of internally illuminated menu box, non-illuminated amenity board and vinyls applied to internal windows at ground floor level to the northern elevation.

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04843/FUL
Installation of new LED floodlights to southern, eastern and northern elevation; replacement of existing broken lantern with new lantern to match existing at northern elevation; associated external alterations.

30 Brackenbury Road W6 2015/03985/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a one bedroom self-contained flat.

Flat A First Floor 2 Inglethorpe Street SW6 2015/05086/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; installation of 1no rooflight in the front roofslope; installation of solar panels over the main flat roof at roof level.

223 North End Road W14 2015/04971/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a new two bedroom self-contained flat; erection of a rear extension at third floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level.

Eyot Cottage Chiswick Mall W4 2015/04994/FUL
Retention of single storey timber pergolas in the rear garden.

111 Sulgrave Road W6 2015/05235/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of railings around flat roof to the rear elevation at third floor level in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope.

238 Uxbridge Road W12 2015/04980/FUL
Installation of an ATM machine.

238 Uxbridge Road W12 2015/04981/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM fascia surround to front elevation.

Banstead Court 60 Westway W12 2015/04686/FUL
Installation of fixed glazed rooflights to replace the existing at roof level to all five blocks A-E.

Draft House 238 Shepherd's Bush Road W6 2015/05002/FUL
Use of part of the public highway for the placing of two tables and eight chairs externally at the front of the property.

1 Edith Villas W14 2015/05070/FUL
Conversion of the first, second and loft floors from four self contained flats to seven self contained flats.

91 Brook Green W6 2015/05263/FUL
Demolition of existing single storey rear extension; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at third floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

170 The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road W6 2015/05216/LBC
Removal of a non-load bearing blockwork partition wall and integral cupboard between existing kitchen and lounge to create an open plan lounge and kitchen.

Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road W14 2015/05200/LBC
Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and 2no internally illuminated double sided projecting signs to the main front entrance to replace the existing signs; display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to both side entrances of the Grand Hall to replace the existing signs.

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04841/LBC
Internal alterations to include exclusion of ground floor ceiling, provision of new furniture, installation of lighting, strip & stain existing timber floor, formation of new timber flooring, installation of new timber treads & brass nosings to staircase; associated internal alterations.

17 St Dunstan's Road W6 2015/04734/LBC
Internal alterations and reconfigurations to include the conversion of 3no bedrooms into 5no bedrooms at first floor level.

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04842/LBC
Installation of new LED floodlights to southern, eastern and northern elevation; replacement of existing broken lantern with new lantern to match existing at northern elevation; display of externally illuminated logos fitted to each sides of the existing brackets to eastern elevation; display of neon sign at first floor level window internally to eastern and southern elevation; display of internally illuminated menu box, non-illuminated amenity board and vinyls applied to internal windows at ground floor level to the northern elevation. Associated internal and external alterations

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road W14 2015/05225/ADV
Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and 2no internally illuminated double sided projecting signs to the main front entrance to replace the existing signs; display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to both side entrances of the Grand Hall to replace the existing signs.

39 Rowan Road W6 2015/05047/FUL
Erection of single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing single storey rear extension; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and erection of railings around part of flat roof of the proposed single storey rear extension at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace.

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04844/ADV
Display of externally illuminated logos fitted to each sides of the existing brackets to eastern elevation; display of neon sign at first floor level window internally to eastern and southern elevation; display of internally illuminated menu box, non-illuminated amenity board and vinyls applied to internal windows at ground floor level to the northern elevation.

The Swan 46 Hammersmith Broadway W6 2015/04843/FUL
Installation of new LED floodlights to southern, eastern and northern elevation; replacement of existing broken lantern with new lantern to match existing at northern elevation; associated external alterations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 6th December 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

27 Chesson Road W14 2015/05040/FUL
I give notice that Mrs Natasha Kumar is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into two self-contained flats (1 x 2 bed, 1 x 3 bed); erection of a rear lower ground floor infill extension; erection of 1.7 metre high timber screen around part of flat roof of two storey back addition at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; installation of a door to replace existing window to the rear elevation at first floor level, to provide access to this proposed roof terrace; creation of a green sedum roof over remainder of flat roof of two storey back addition at first floor level; installation of glazed doors on rear elevation of back addition at lower ground floor level; and minor alterations to the front lightwell.

Garage To The Rear Of 168 Stephendale Road SW6 2015/05256/FUL
I give notice that Ms Jenny Supant is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Excavation under the footprint of the garage to form a new basement with lightwells, in connection with the conversion of the ground and basement level of the garage into a single family dwellinghouse; installation of new entrance gates and timber privacy panelling fronting Lindrop Street elevation; alterations to the fenestration at ground floor level.

188 Dawes Road SW6 2015/05010/FUL
I give notice that Mr Kaleem Malik is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Use of ground floor as 24 hour private hire operating centre with public access (Class Sui Generis).

84D Lillie Road SW6 2015/04869/FUL
I give notice that is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Conversion of an existing six bedroom maisonette at first, second and third floor levels into 3no. two bedroom flats; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a 1700mm high privacy screen around part of the flat roof of the existing back addition at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; and replacement of a window with a door to the side elevation at first floor level, to provide access to the proposed roof terrace.

Southern Terrace Westfield London Shopping Centre Ariel Way London 2015/05121/ADV
I give notice that Westfield Europe Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of an internally illuminated led digital screen to the eastern, southern and western elevations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **6th December 2015**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "A") (AMENDMENT No. *) ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the above proposed Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A)(Amendment No**) Order 20** would be to further amend The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A) Order 2008 in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Sussex Place.
3. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
4. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:

   Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 11th day of November 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)
(UXBRIDGE ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works in Uxbridge Road, it made an Order the effect of prohibits vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed the bus lane on the north side of Uxbridge Road between its junctions with Tunis Road and Loftus Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in articles 2 will be not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday 23rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 23rd November 2015 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of November 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)
(GOLDHAWK ROAD III)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate krane operation works in the Goldhawk Road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the east-bound carriageway of Goldhawk Road between its junctions with Greenside Road and Wingate Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Paddenswick Road, Glenthorne Road, Beadon Road and Shepherds Bush Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Saturday, 21st November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday, 21st November 2015 and last for 2 days with back up dates scheduled for 28th & 29th November 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of November 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)
(RICKETT STREET/ ROXBY PLACE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits traffic in the above named roads.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Rickett Street and Roxby Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Monday, 23rd Novemeber 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 23rd November 2015 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of November 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)
(WATERFORD ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate british telecommunication works in Waterford Road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibts vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the left hand lane in the section of Waterford Road at its junction with New King's Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in articles 2 will be in place via New King's Road, Britannia Road and Moore Park Road
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Hoops aim to follow the Swansea plan

AS QPR's search for a new head coach continues, it became increasingly likely as LWN went to press that Neil Warnock will still be holding the fort for Friday night's visit to Middlesbrough.

The interim manager has been preparing the team for what promises to be a tough test in the north-east against the side currently fourth in the Championship table – not the type of game a club would ideally wish to unveil a new manager.

But Rangers would hope to have the new appointment signed and sealed by the time Leeds United visit Loftus Road on Saturday week.

QPR CEO Lee Hoos gave some insight into the board's current thinking when he attended last week's fans' forum with club ambassador and former Hoop Andy Sinton.

Best way forward

American Hoos had just flown back from Malaysia, where he had met with the club owners and director of football Les Ferdinand to discuss the best way forward and a long-term replacement for recently sacked Chris Ramsey.

Ferdinand was due to face the fans but had to pull out through illness.

In his place, the eloquent Hoos – who has an impressive track record in similar previous roles at Fulham, Leicester City and Burnley – outlined his job in helping Rangers to make the right appointment: "First of all you have to establish what you want from a competency level from your manager. You get those competency levels down, describe what the attributes are.

"You don't say, 'can he get players in on loan from, say, Chelsea, because he knows Jose Mourinho' – believe me, there are some clubs who recruit (managers) that way and it's a bad way to do it.

"Swansea have shown the proper way to do it. Have a philosophy and bring in managers that fit in with that philosophy.

"So we have the components of that philosophy written down.

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

I've got my set-piece interview questions to try and assess them on a scale of this is how they fit it into the philosophies, and there will be certain things that are weighted more heavily than others.

"It's a bit like Prozone with players – it doesn't tell you the whole story but it gives you a good guide and then you can dig deeper.

"Right now there is a very long list. We'll cut that down to a short list, where Les and I do the interviews. We'll get that process down so that there are four or five in the second, final round of interviews with Les, myself and the owners and that's how we'll come up with our manager.

"Time-wise? As soon as we can get the right guy in. What I wouldn't want is to be in a situation where we have to have someone in next week or the week after and it doesn't happen, or we rush it and say, 'oh my god, we said we'd have somebody in situ by this time'.

"We need to look at this as a long-term appointment, so we really need to get it right."

Another indication that R's have adopted the patient approach came last week, when Neil Warnock was given the go-ahead to bring in his own assistant in the form of Kevin Blackwell.

Blackwell previously worked with Warnock at Huddersfield, Plymouth, Bury and Sheffield United, while he also assisted him during his previous spell at Loftus Road.

"I know how Kevin works, he is very good on the training field and will provide me with an extra pair of eyes," Warnock told www.qpr.co.uk.

"I have spoken with Les Ferdinand and I have to operate as the head coach – for however long that might be.

"When you look at the fixtures coming up, I don't think anyone will be rushing in to take over for those! We've got to embrace it, and give it our best shot."

HOLDING the fort . . . Neil Warnock.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, November 20
Middlesbrough v QPR, 7.45
Saturday, November 21
CHELSEA v Norwich City, 3.00
Milton Keynes Dons v FULHAM, 3.00
Tuesday, November 24
Maccabi Tel-Aviv v CHELSEA (UCL), 7.45

BETTIN£ BANTER

YOU should be able to get at least 4/5 (1.80) on there being less than three goals scored between Middlesbrough and QPR in the live televised game on Friday night and, even at odds-on, I'll be tempted to back that low scoring outcome.

QPR failed to register a shot on target in Neil Warnock's first game at the helm, the drab goalless draw with Preston at Loftus Road last time out, and have now gone three games without scoring.

R's have lost their last two away games by 1-0 and I envisage the same score at the Riverside, where Boro's customary water-tight defence has failed to leak a single goal in its last five home games.

Even though Boro have netted three goals in four of their six home league victories this season, they needed only one to defeat bottom club Rotherham in their last outing in the north-east and their 'Mini Mourinho' manager Aitor Karanka will be satisfied with the same result on Friday.

Nigel Pearson's price to be the next manager of Fulham had shortened to between 2/5 (1.40) and 1/2 (1.5) as we went to press, although he was also still 2/5 favourite to take over at QPR.

Perhaps an over-zealous west London estate agent has seen the former Leicester City boss eyeing up local property and has put two and two together.

Even with cavalier Kit gone, it's hard to imagine Fulham turning their own penalty area into Fort Knox at Milton Keynes on Saturday. Whites have been reliable bankers for goal-backers so far this season and I'll be surprised if there aren't at least three goals at Stadium MK, with Fulham coming out on top in a see-saw battle.

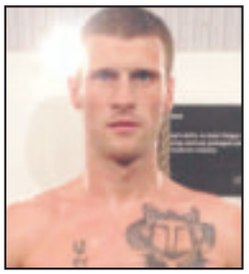
Placed precariously one place above the drop zone, MK Dons have scored only seven goals in their eight home league games this campaign and lost five times.

Even if Symons' successor isn't named before Saturday, Fulham players will be out to impress their next incumbent manager. Whites have scored 14 on the road in the Championship and I fancy they will be one of the best odds against bets of the weekend to see off the Dons at around 17/10 (2.7).

Despite losing their last match 1-0 at Stoke, Chelsea were much improved and deserved to win. If, for a change, Jose Mourinho can resist making any inflammatory comments in the build up to Saturday's home game with Norwich, his players should be relaxed and claim a comfortable victory. I'll take 2-0.

Good luck – and always bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald



ON April 11, 2009, Shepherd's Bush welterweight John O'Donnell (right) was on the path to what he thought was fame and fortune when he beat Craig Watson at York Hall, Bethnal Green to become Commonwealth Champion.

He hoped it might be the stepping stone to bigger things and following a similar path to his former Dale Youth club-mates James DeGale and George Groves.

But two years later Watson gained revenge by beating him unanimously for the British title – a fight where he was probably drained after only making the weight after the third attempt.

O'Donnell has had five fights since then and won them all – three in Ireland, one in Canada and one at York Hall. Now, six days after his 30th birthday, he sets out on the championship trail again when he meets Dale Evans in an eliminator for the British welterweight title in his ninth appearance at York Hall this Saturday.

O'Donnell has lost only two of his 31 fights – one to Watson and the other a second round TKO against Cristian Solano in Las Vegas. So this top-of-the-bill fight on the Steve Goodwin show is his chance to re-establish himself on the next rung of the ladder.

The likeable Irishman took a year off after losing the British title fight but admits he now has the hunger again.

The Shepherd's Bush man has been keeping fit in the State of Mind Fitness gym, Hammersmith and also uses the Dale Youth club facilities at Notting Hill.

Peter Faulkner

Lord's go-ahead

LORD's, the Home of Cricket, is to undergo further long-term improvements.

The MCC has been granted planning permission by Westminster City Council to redevelop the south-western corner of the ground in St John's Wood.

The South-Western Project, which also includes a new Thomas Lord building and Tavern pub, is phase two of the Masterplan for Lord's.

The earliest that work will begin on the project in its current form will be autumn 2019, because Lord's must be free of building works that summer for the ICC World Cup.

The key elements of the scheme are:

• A new Tavern and Allen Stand – a single structure to replace the existing two. The design incorporates 5,200 seats, an increase of 1,082 compared to the existing stand.

• A new Thomas Lord Building with a street-facing reception, a banqueting suite and offices for MCC staff.

• A new Tavern pub, opening into the Harris Garden as well as onto the street.

• Enhancement of the area around the Grace Gates to establish a more welcoming, pedestrian-friendly public realm.

• A new Harris Garden building with a bar facing out onto the Garden and additional dressing rooms both for squash and tennis players, and to better accommodate double-header matches.

• Reorganisation of the pavilion to enlarge the dressing rooms, and convert a current office, physio room and women's toilets on the corridor between the two dressing rooms into space for team management and a players' gym.

• An enlarged and deepened basement which will enable vehicles to make deliveries directly to catering facilities, etc, underground, removing the need to use the Grace Gate entrance.

Work on phase one of the Masterplan for Lord's, the redevelopment of the Warner Stand, began in September this year with the new stand to be completed by the 2017 season.

The stand will, however, be in use during the 2016 season, to allow Lord's to operate at full 28,000 seating capacity for all major matches.

FULHAM continued from back page

He subsequently had a two-year spell in charge of West Ham – the club where he began his playing career – but resigned in September 2008 after a dispute with the board because of a lack of control over transfer policy.

Unless 'Curbs' has abandoned his hands-on, 'old school' approach to management, this would appear to be a major sticking point given the new criterion laid down by the Fulham hierarchy.

On the other hand, Curbishley knows the club well and the people running it must be fully aware of what he has to offer.

He had a two-month spell as technical director at Fulham in 2013-14 but left when Felix Magath became manager.

But he rejoined Whites in an advisory capacity to Symons earlier this year and has been a regular fixture in the Fulham dug-out.

He is also employed by Sky Sports as a co-commentator, mainly covering games in the Dutch league.

"I won two promotions (with Charlton) and been in the play-offs before," he pointed out.

Although the 5-2 home defeat by Birmingham City in their last game under Symons leaves Fulham mid-table in 12th place, Curbishley still believes they are capable of finishing in the top six this season.

"With the top two at the moment on 30-odd points, it is a big haul to catch them," he said.

"Fulham have got a side which could, on its day, beat anyone 4-0. But they could get beat 4-0. Whoever comes in has got to try and change that a little bit.

"You have got to get the results. It is difficult but it can be done," Curbishley added.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Thursday, November 19th, 2015 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

TOP man: Willian has been Chelsea's star performer so far this season Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Rebuilding starts here

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHELSEA owner Roman Abramovich is prepared to write off this season in terms of the league championship and use the next two transfer windows to reshape the side to challenge for major honours.

And Jose Mourinho is expected to be in charge to oversee the next revolution.

Mourinho, who was banned by the FA from attending Blues' last game at Stoke, will be back in the Chelsea dugout on Saturday when they return to league action following the international break at home against Norwich City.

The under pressure Portuguese manager is increasingly confident that he can turn the first team's fortunes around and that he will be entrusted with future incoming and outgoing transfers.

In these uncertain times for Chelsea, three points is no longer a given but at least the green shoots of form seem to be coming from the players who need to perform well consistently.

Eden Hazard had his best game of the season in the 1-0 defeat at Stoke and is still performing well for Belgium.

But it's what Chelsea do in the January and summer transfer windows that will determine the next chapter of Abramovich's history in SW6.

Back on radar

Antoine Griezmann is back on the Russian owner's radar. The 24-year-old French striker was courted by Mourinho last summer but he chose to honour the new contract he had just signed at Atletico Madrid.

Getting him in January might prove beyond the capability of director of football Michael Emenalo but a bid of up to £40m is likely to test Atletico's resolve.

On-loan striker Radamel Falcao was once feared across Europe but is now a pale shadow of his former self. It's believed that Mourinho would be more than happy to see the back of the Colombia striker and that a cut-their-losses move back to his parent club Monaco could happen in January.

That would leave Mourinho with just two experienced strikers, Diego Costa and Loic Remy. Remy has hit the back of the net just twice this season, while number one striker Costa has just one goal more.

Costa is nowhere near the lethal hit man that he was last season, when he notched 21 goals in all competitions as he propelled Blues to the Premier League title and League Cup success. The snarling striker seems more concerned with upsetting defenders than scoring goals.

But with Cesc Fabregas flying for Spain, as evidenced by his man-of-the-match performance against England at the weekend, the omens are that Norwich could well be on the receiving end of a rejuvenated midfielder, who might just provide the ammunition for his club and international team-mate.

Fabregas, who had Costa, Pedro (as a sub) and Cesar Azpilicueta alongside him during Friday's 2-0 win in Alicante, is certain that Spain are back to their best.

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

"We recovered things we were missing at the last World Cup," he said. "We proved we can beat anyone because England are a great squad full of quality players. The way we played against them showed our football was impressive."

One player who does not need to regain form is fellow midfielder Willian. By general consensus the Brazilian has been the stand-out performer in a season so far best forgotten.

Willian, who cost Blues £23m in 2013, has hit five goals this season, including some sensational free-kicks.

One man who rates Willian is Chelsea goalkeeper Asmir Begovic: "Willian has taken his game on to another level," said the Bosnian. "He's been outstanding and everyone can see that.

"He's a world class player and scoring some fantastic goals, which is great for us.

"It's not just the goals but his extraordinary work-rate that impresses fans and players alike.

"I didn't know how good he was when I first came here. But I said it to a couple of people after I first trained with him. The other guys get more of the headlines but he is absolutely outstanding."

Begovic hasn't given up hope that Chelsea's parlous league position, 16th, is just a blip and that better times are ahead.

He says: "We are looking to get back-to-back wins regardless. It's something we need to do.

"We haven't given up on a place in the top four.

"We know we are a good team and once our form clicks we will push up the league very quickly. We have to take it step by step and pick up those points."

Mourinho might just have the answer to his goal-scoring crisis right under his nose.

Having chosen to farm out strikers Dominic Solanke and Patrick Bamford to Vitesse Arnhem and Crystal Palace respectively, Blues' boss could promote Tammy Abraham to the first team as the third-choice forward, if Falcao is offloaded in the New Year.

Last season Abraham and Solanke smashed in 71 goals between them and already this season, 18-year-old Abraham, a former Pimlico Academy student, has shown enough striking prowess to be knocking on Mourinho's door.

Abraham hit a brace for England under-19s as the young Lions beat Japan 5-1 and also scored against Holland in their other friendly last week.

Mourinho is not noted for putting his trust in youth. Having said he would give Ruben Loftus-Cheek a run in the side, he soon ditched the 19-year-old midfielder after 45 minutes of the 2-0 win against Aston Villa.

But he may be forced into giving Abraham a chance sooner than he would have expected.

Abraham was outstanding in last season's under-18 FA Youth Cup triumph and the Blues will begin the defence of the trophy with a home match against Huddersfield Town at Aldershot Town FC on December 19.

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham target head coach

FULHAM have made it clear they are looking to appoint a head coach rather than an autonomous 'old-style' manager.

With Whites next in action in the Championship at MK Dons on Saturday, first team coaches Mark Pembridge and Sean Reed have been supervising training while chief football officer Mike Rigg conducts the search for Kit Symons' replacement.

Nigel Pearson, who was sacked as Leicester City's boss last summer after steering them to Premier League safety, was the bookies' favourite as LWN went to press. But given his fractious relationship with the board and high profile controversies that brought his management style into question, it would be a surprise to see him re-locate to SW6.

Rigg said: "We're not looking for a manager. As an increasing number of clubs are these days, we are focussing on a head coach.

"The size of the vast majority of Championships clubs now, there is so much going on that the aim of the head coach is to focus on what's happening on the pitch. That's not to say that the head coach isn't consulted and involved in the whole process about new signings.

"The head coach has to be involved in the whole process and I'm going to make sure we do that," said Rigg, who confirmed that the new man will report directly to him, as the link between the football management and the board.

"My job, and let's make this absolutely clear, is to do everything I possibly can to support the head coach.

Not a dictatorship

"It will always be to question it, in a healthy way. It's not a dictatorship by me. It's not me picking the team or deciding the tactics.

"My job is to co-ordinate a strategy which does everything we possibly can to maximise our resources and support the head coach.

"This is our vision as a club, a decision we have come to collectively from Mr Khan right the way down, it's not my vision.

"There are a lot of good people out there – some people in work, others out of work and there's a lot of interest. We are a very values-driven club and, culturally, we have to make sure we bring in a successful head coach that we'd like to think has a proven track record of being able to succeed.

"But also, at the same time, fit in to the values and the direction, strategically, where we want to go as a club. Ultimately, that's about getting back into the Premier League."

Despite being out of football management for seven years, Alan Curbishley has refused to rule himself out of the running for the vacant manager's job.

The 58-year-old was an advisor to Kit Symons at Craven Cottage before the Welshman was sacked a little under two weeks ago.

"It's up to other people. They need to think about what kind of manager they want," Curbishley said.

"It is an attractive job and I'm sure there are going to be lots of people who will be applying."

Curbishley spent 15 years as Charlton Athletic manager between 1991 and 2006, establishing the club in the Premier League.

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LORD'S REDEVELOPMENT GO-AHEAD – page 27

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

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Vincent Lai is now studying Economics and Maths at Bristol University, a member of the elite Russell Group. Vincent says he 'enjoyed every minute' of his time at Christ the King - and left us with an A* in Maths, an A in Economics and a B in Further Maths at A Level. 'My teachers were always there when I needed them,' he reflects. 'Whether it was in the classroom or outside lessons, if there was something I didn't understand I could always approach them.'

Vincent also credits our Learning Resources Centre (LRC) as a 'major factor' in his success. In comparison to his previous school, where they facilities were very limited, the LRC opening hours and resources were invaluable, he says.

Vincent's fellow student, Sarah Oluwapelumi Babs-Apata, has headed off to top-rated Leeds University to study for a degree in Civil Engineering with Architecture after achieving a triple-starred distinction in her Engineering BTEC Diploma. With a shortage of young women choosing Engineering as a career, we know that Sarah will be an inspirational role model for her chosen profession.

Sarah says: '*A lot of people, especially my family, thought that as I'm a very academic person I should do A Levels in Sciences or Law, but BTECs are really underrated. I studied Physics, Maths and Further Maths along with Engineering. The course gave me the foundation of knowledge to really progress in engineering.*

'I felt universities were going to be prejudiced against BTECs. At first I was in the anti-BTEC mindset but now I'm going to a Russell Group university!'

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